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SEPTEMBER 1998

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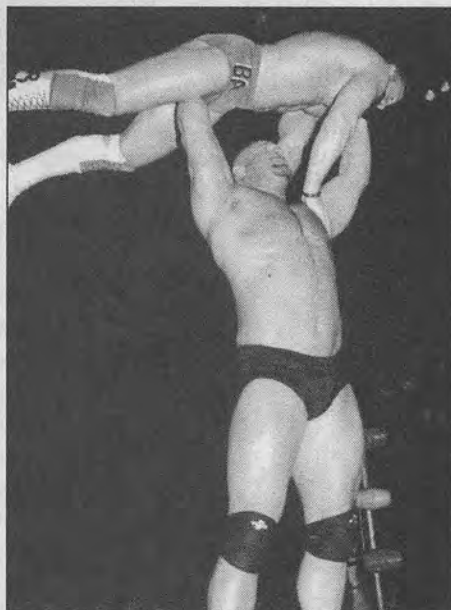
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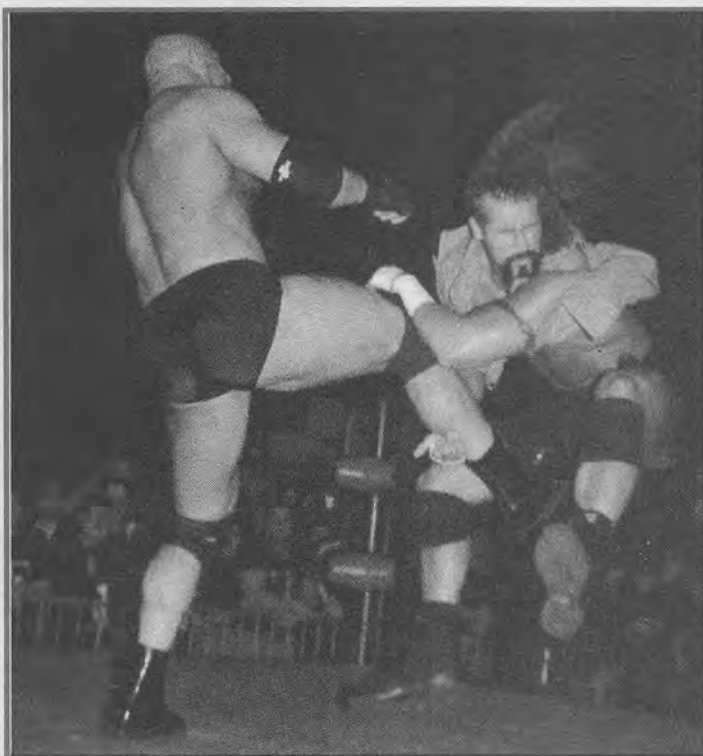


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August, 1998

Sincerely Yours

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Bill Goldberg kicks Sick Boy en route to another quick victory. Most WCW fans can't get enough of Goldberg, but reader Ben Colianni thinks he's overrated.

SORRY, NOT IMPRESSED

Let me be the first to say it: Bill Goldberg's success is a fluke! Maybe "Mongo" McMichael isn't great, but neither is Goldberg. Goldberg reminds me of one of those overstuffed musclehead cartoon characters of the '80s. The only scientific move he knows is a punch. "Mongo" is certainly not the most accomplished wrestler, but at least he was selected to join a very elite group of wrestlers: The Four Horsemen. Wake up, Goldberg fans, because this guy is not that great.

BEN COLIANNI
Trucksville, PA

DX DOOMED?

I think Shawn Michaels was screwed out of the WWF World title by Mike Tyson. I had respect for "Triple-H" until the March 30 episode of *Raw Is War*. Now he can kiss my butt. Who does he think he is, trying to take over DX? Pretty soon he will ruin DX the way Hulk Hogan ruined the NWO, by bringing too many people in.

DERRICK MARSHALL
Hogeville, MO

IS HE NUTS?

What's wrong with "Macho Man" Randy Savage? I read about him tearing his ACL this spring, and I thought maybe his career would be over because of it. I figured he'd have to at least take a few months off and have an operation to get it fixed, but he's still wrestling and still getting into fights with Hollywood Hogan and Bret Hart. I guess it was only a partial tear, but that's still pretty bad. If Hogan or somebody else decides to go after his knee, he could be crippled for life. I think Savage has a lot of courage, but for him not to take time off to get his knee fixed makes no sense.

DAN STRAFFORD
Anaheim, CA

SHANE'S PAIN

I go to a lot of ECW shows, and I get real mad when I hear people constantly criticizing Shane Douglas. I can see why people think he's cocky and overbearing at times, but he's a guy with a lot of guts. He's won the ECW belt four times in his career, and he's not the flashiest wrestler in ECW, but he always gives the fans everything he has. He's had a lot of injuries over the last few years, and even though he has taken time off to let them heal, he always comes back. His elbow was in such bad shape last year that doctors advised him to retire. He didn't. It probably wasn't a good idea for him to wrestle Al Snow at *Wrestlepalooza*, either, but he did,

and he won. ECW fans should appreciate "The Franchise" while they still can.

FRED GASTEN
Buffalo, NY

IT'S WRESTLEMANIA!

For the second consecutive year, I found WrestleMania to be a major disappointment. WrestleMania XIV was obviously built around the old WWF line that says "(Insert celebrity here) is going to be at WrestleMania! And, oh, yeah, there's going to be wrestling on the card." Last year's WrestleMania was one of the worst pay-per-views in recent memory, but at least the focus was on the wrestlers, not on the celebrities who attended the card. I really don't give a damn whether Mike Tyson, Gennifer Flowers, or Pete Rose are there, as long as the matches are good.

WrestleMania XIII will not rank as one of the best pay-per-views in wrestling history. Maybe next year the WWF should take a page from that show and leave the celebrities, Sable, and Luna out. Give the attention to the *wrestlers*,

like Steve Austin, Shawn Michaels, and Taka Michinoku. Then again, this is the WWF we're talking about, so the chances of that happening are slim.

DAVID HOPKINS
Fort Worth, TX

E-C-II E-C-II

I would like to commend Mike Joseph for penning an excellent article on the East Coast Invasion's dominance of the independent circuit and the Northern States Wrestling Alliance ("Wrestling's Hottest Rivalry ... And You Don't Even Know It Exists!" June 1998).

As an avid collector of wrestling videotapes, I have followed ECI's travels for several months. Ultimately, I drove to Westland, Michigan, to see them live. Countless fans from coast to coast are noticing and appreciating the talents of Reckless Youth, Lance Diamond, and Don Montoya, but when will WCW and the WWF wise up and give all these guys a legitimate shot at stardom?

It has become apparent that in
(Continued on page 52)

Inside Wrestling

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London Publishing Co.

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Marion, OH 43302

Cover Design:

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Cover Photos:

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Steve Austin by John S. Pithers



Gennifer Flowers made an appearance at WrestleMania XIV, and Jeff Jarrett was glad to see her. Reader David Hopkins is hoping there are no celebrities at next year's WrestleMania.

INSIDE WRESTLING, Volume 30, Number 9, (ISSN: 1047-9562) is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: INSIDE WRESTLING, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43302. Single copy price \$2.50 (\$3.50 in Canada, £1.95 in U.K.). Subscription price \$29.20 for 13 issues in the U.S., \$39.60 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. **FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES:** (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

Printed in U.S.A.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

I've used this space in past issues to write about the power swings between the NWO and WCW, as if those were the only two forces of any significance in this sport.

Man, do I look stupid!

The WWF, seemingly slipping further and further into the great abyss over the past couple of years, has rebounded so strongly that even NWO 4-lifer Dennis Rodman would have to be impressed. Vince McMania is sweeping the imaginations of the nation, not to mention those of the Nielsen families, the only group in existence more anonymous than the WCW Executive Committee.

I'll admit it, I was actually worried that WCW was going to make the WWF into a '90s version of the AWA. Of course, this would have been fair play in the business world, particularly since it was the WWF that turned the AWA into the AWA of the '80s, if you catch my drift. But for fans and a company that services fans (ours), the demise of the WWF would have proven disastrous.

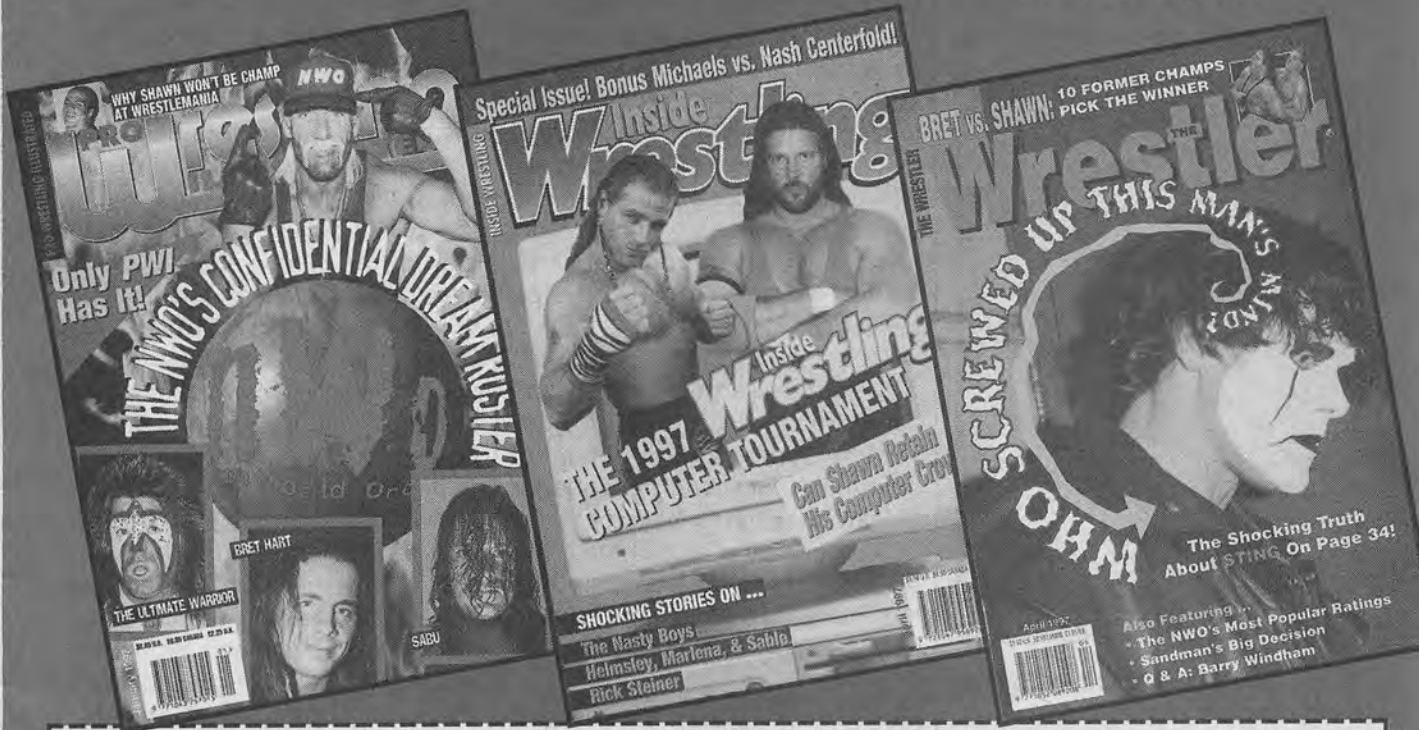
The WWF's turnaround seems truly amazing until you consider the fact that what Vince McMahon has already accomplished in this sport makes his recent triumphs pale in comparison. I don't need to recount the history of the WWF in the Vince McMahon Jr. era and what that has meant to the sport's growth; that's all been documented time and time again. Whether or not you agree with McMahon and his past (or current) philosophies, the fact that on a good Monday night, the WWF and WCW play in front of seven million people speaks more about what McMahon started in 1983 than it does for anything anybody in this business—Eric Bischoff included—has ever done. Even Eric would admit that.

Do I approve of the WWF's style? No. I don't like it in the least, and I've never made a secret of that fact. I'm often embarrassed by the content of the WWF broadcasts. It doesn't even have the right to call itself "adult-oriented," because there is nothing at all adult about the behavior and language of several of its stars. There are, however, some terrific athletes in the federation, some brave warriors, and a champion and owner who can out-talk some of the greatest orators in history.

Now that the WWF has regained its momentum, I wonder if it has the guts to phase out the juvenile antics and overt sexual references. The WWF insists that it doesn't cross the line of decency and good taste, but what it's been doing is moving the line farther and farther out to suit its own needs. The company may not want to think about it now, but that's a very dangerous practice that may impact its long-term health.

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NAMES MA

KEVIN NASH DOESN'T want to hear any explanations. The only thing on his mind is revenge. He still gets angry every time he thinks about how his best



KEVIN NASH

friend, **Scott Hall**, betrayed him at Slamboree.

"I can't ever remember being this hot," Nash said. "I hate a lot of people that I wrestle, but this is different. This is a lot worse than **The Giant**. Scott Hall is the only man in this business I would have trusted with my life, and look what he did to me. Nobody stabs 'Big Sexy' in the back and lives!"

Hall barely reacted when I told him of Nash's comments.

"Hey, I'm surprised at Kev's reaction," he said. "I thought he'd think it was a real cool deal, how I put one over on him. What can I say? **Hollywood Hogan** is the lifeline of the NWO, and I ain't gonna cut the cord. Hollywood will live on forever, and so will Scott Hall. With me in it, NWO Hollywood will remain powerful and stable. Survey says, score one for Hollywood's side."

The Giant told me that he and Hall were fairly close during The Giant's first stint with the NWO. "I could tell he had some problems with the pecking order with Nash even back then," he said. "I knew that if I went to him and asked him to stay with Hollywood Hogan, he'd do it. Any enemy of Nash is an ally of mine, no matter who he is. We've got a bunch of guys who hate Nash and are dying to come aboard. Maybe we should call our side NWO Nash Haters."

More big news from Slamboree: A 15-man cruiserweight battle royal came down to **Ciclope** and **Juventud Guerrera** in the end, but Juvi didn't last long because he quickly eliminated himself. Thus Ciclope earned a shot at the cruiserweight title that night. No one knew why Juvi eliminated himself until Ciclope unmasked and re-



DEAN MALENKO

vealed himself to be **Dean Malenko**! Malenko went on to force his most hated rival, Jericho, to submit

to the "Texas Cloverleaf." Thus he not only won the cruiserweight title, but he also gained revenge on Jericho for repeatedly bashing his family during the previous two months.

The WWF's *Raw Is War* posted two impressive head-to-head ratings wins over *Nitro* in a one-month period this spring, and the boost in the ratings could be directly attributed to the involvement of WWF head **Vince McMahon** and his feud with World champion "**Stone-Cold**" **Steve Austin**. I attempted to get some comments via telephone from McMahon, but my call was fielded by his good friend **Jerry Brisco**.

"Mr. McMahon is indeed delighted with the ratings," Brisco said, "but more importantly, Mr. McMahon truly believes that he has sent out a message to Mr. Austin that will eventually force Mr. Austin to become the clean-cut champion we so want him to be. Mr. McMahon has been working out and sparring on a daily basis, and if Mr. Austin forces his hand, he will be truly surprised at how well my boss



VINCE MCMAHON

KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

can handle himself in the ring. Thank you, and feel free to call us again."

The Undertaker and **Vader** have discussed teaming and have requested that matchmakers give them matches with **Jerry Lawler** and **Kane** ... **Al Snow** and **Head** will continue appearing in ECW while Snow also wrestles in the WWF ... WCW TV champion **Dave "Fit" Finlay** is getting awfully cocky. He has sights set on a bigger title. "I already pulled off one so-called upset by beating **Booker T** for the TV belt. Now if they'll only give me a match against **Hollywood Hogan**, you'll see me with that World title belt around my waist!"

Victoria Van Ellen, president and CEO of NWA New England, has done away with the CWA New England title (the company used to be known as Century Wrestling Alliance) held by **Tony Rumble**. However, the old CWA heavyweight

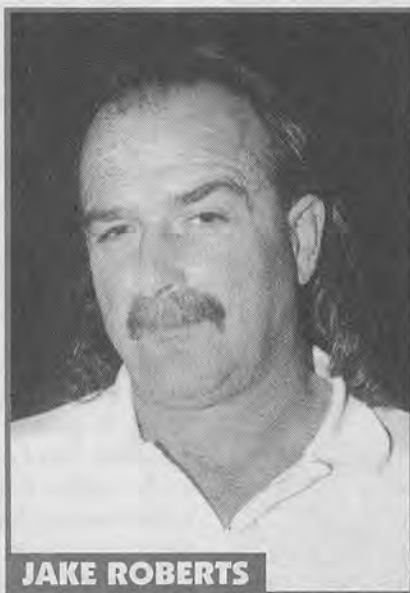
title, which is held by **Eric Sbraccia**, is now called the NWA New England belt. **Rumble** is furious. He says that Van Ellen has never liked him or the group he represents, **The Brotherhood** ... **Afa** is training several Samoan wrestlers he plans to bring to the WWF soon.

Kid Wicked captured the vacant Power Pro Wrestling Young Guns title by winning a battle royal ... I'm sad to report that **Lew Eskin**, the editor/publisher of several wrestling and boxing publications during the '60s and '70s, has died of a heart attack at the age of 72. Although **Stanley Weston** got me started in this business, it was Lew Eskin who bought and published my first story in 1970. It was an interview with **Tony Angelo** and **The Mongols**.

Jake "The Snake" Roberts is



VICTORIA VAN ELLEN



JAKE ROBERTS

feuding with **King Kong Bundy** in Northeast indies ... **Soul City Wrestling** is running several benefit shows at Viking Hall in Philadelphia. What's so interesting about that? Viking Hall is also known as

ECW Arena. ECW has run exclusively in that building since its inception, but ECW head **Paul E. Dangerously** says he has no problem with what **Soul City** is doing. "They are doing benefits for kids," he said, "and I think that's great."

Lance Diamond says his career is definitely on the upswing thanks



DAWN MARIE

to **Dawn Marie**, or, as he calls her, his "brain in the corner." Said Diamond: "People think she's just a good-looking valet who's coming along for the ride with me. But her knowledge of the sport is amazing, and her strategy sessions are intense. She's made a huge difference in my approach to my matches" ... **Windy City** referee **Steve Cain** is under investigation for some questionable calls he's made in favor of many of the rulebreakers in the federation. "I call 'em as I see 'em," Cain insists. "Right down the middle. I favor no one."

That's all for now. I'll see you at the matches! □

THE WHOLE DUMB thing started with this exchange between Chris Jericho and a fan while Jericho walked to the ring for his match against Chavo Guerrero Jr. in Fargo, North Dakota.

"Hey, Jericho!" the leather-lunged fan yelled out. "Teddy Irvine was a loser like you!"

Jericho usually ignores the fans' taunts. In fact, his deluded little mind usually converts them into cheers. But when he heard this fan deriding his father, Jericho stopped briefly. His head jerked around, and he saw the man who had uttered those words.

No, Jericho thought. *He wasn't a loser. He was as great as I am. He was the best.*

Jericho continued to the ring and won his match, even though he was distracted the whole time. He kept looking for the fan out of the corner of his eye—the man was wearing a Philadelphia Flyers cap—and noticed that the man didn't shut up the whole time. Not that Jericho could hear him. The crowd noise

ON THE ROAD

With Dave Lenker

drowned him out. But when Jericho made his way back to the dressing room, ol' leather lungs yelled it out again.

"Hey, Jericho! Teddy Irvine was as big a loser as you are!"

For the record, Teddy Irvine was not a loser. Irvine played in the National Hockey League for 11 seasons and scored 331 points. He was a tough, rugged forward whose specialty was penalty-killing, and he played for some outstanding New York Rangers teams in the early-'70s.

In 1970, his son was born—a blond-haired boy who would go on to become WCW cruiserweight champion ... the man we know today as Chris Jericho.

I wasn't in Fargo, North Dakota, when the incident happened, but I heard about it from one of the other WCW wrestlers who had talked to Jericho about it. I questioned Jericho the next time I saw him. At first, all Jericho wanted to talk about was the "Jerichoholics" in Fargo, but then I said to him, "What about that guy?" and it all came pouring out.

"He was saying bad things about my father," Jericho responded. "And he was wearing a Philadelphia Flyers hat."

"You love your father," I said.

"Yes."

"And you hate the Flyers."

"Who doesn't? There are no 'Flyerholics' out there," Jericho said. "Who would ever call themselves a 'Flyerholic'? That'd be ridiculous."

"You'd be surprised."

"Yeah?"

"Yeah," I said. "Believe me. Next time you're near Philadelphia, call the office. We'll go to a Flyers game."

As luck would have it, next time happened to be late-April, when the Flyers were playing in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs and tickets, always hard to come by, were nearly impossible to find. But there was no way I was going to pass up the opportunity to attend a Flyers game with Chris Jericho. Besides, I had my column to think about.

So Apter called a ticket agent, Saks found an extra few hundred dollars in the budget, and the next night, there we were, Chris Jericho and I, sitting in the CoreStates Center in Philadelphia watching Game 1 of the Eastern Conference quarterfinals between the Flyers and the Buffalo Sabres.

You'll never guess who Jericho was rooting for.

"Let's go Buf-fa-lo!" Jericho shouted in the middle of the national anthem.

"Kill the Flyers!" Jericho screamed after the

(Continued on page 54)



Chris Jericho looks like he's ready for a good fight in this photo. If you want to get him fighting mad, just try telling him his father, Ted Irvine, wasn't a good hockey player.

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- 1) Joey Styles
- 2) Paul E. Dangerously
- 3) Tommy Dreamer
- 4) Bill Alfonso

Lex Luger is also known as ...?

- 1) Totally Awesome
- 2) The Six Pack
- 3) The Total Package
- 4) None of the above

**True or False: The Giant competed in
the 1988 Summer Olympics as a member
of the Austrian basketball team?**

- 1) True 2) False

**The Undertaker was once tag
team partners with ...?**

- 1) Lou Albano
- 2) Sgt. Slaughter
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) None of the above

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Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

CALL ME STUPID—I've certainly been called that enough times—but it seems to me as if the WWF vs. WCW Monday night cable TV ratings war is about to move to an altogether different front: the wrestling ring.

Crazy, right? Idiotic? Stupid? A pipe dream? The nonsensical babblings of a wrestling columnist who's been around the game for too long and has waited too long for this to happen?

Maybe, but this time there's reason to believe. You see, the WWF vs. WCW war is being fought in tighter quarters. And that's great news.

WCW fired the first strike by going head-to-head with *Raw* on Monday night, then the second strike by continuing to sign away many of the WWF's biggest stars (Scott Hall and Kevin Nash, for example), then the third strike by having the gall to win the ratings battle, then the fourth strike by adding a live Thursday night prime time program to the mix.

But the WWF is finally striking back, thanks to a group of wrestlers who aren't fond of WCW and aren't afraid to speak their minds at any time.

Most notably, the WWF powers aren't afraid to let them speak their minds.

That's significant because way back, the WWF never acknowledged WCW and didn't allow its wrestlers to acknowledge WCW. There has, however, been increased verbal interplay between the two federations over the past few years, and it peaked on a *Raw* broadcast on April 27.

That night, the WWF and WCW were holding their Monday night shows approximately 15 miles apart, the WWF in Hampton, Virginia, and WCW in Norfolk, Virginia. In what turned out to be a shocking piece of television, the WWF's DeGeneration X—Hunter Hearst Helmsley, X-Pac, The New Age Outlaws, and Chyna—went to the Scope in Norfolk late in the afternoon, yelled disparaging remarks about Eric Bischoff, talked to WCW fans just outside the doors to the arena, and chanted, "Let our people go." That was a reference to former WWF stars

Kevin Nash and Scott Hall, who according to their good friend X-Pac—recently fired by WCW—are contractually being held hostage in WCW by Eric Bischoff.

Then DeGeneration X, dressed in battle fatigues, ignited what sounded like a bazooka blast from its jeep across the street.

This in itself was notable and entertaining. But what made it amazing is that the WWF aired this episode, which was taped before the live broadcast began, on *Raw*. The WWF wasn't merely taking verbal jabs at WCW; it was acknowledging WCW as a competitor and also acknowledging that WCW had wrestlers it wanted (or at least wrestlers that DeGeneration X wanted).

Amazing stuff. Even more amazing: Nobody from WCW made much of an effort to stop the WWF wrestlers.

(Continued on page 55)



The five members of DeGeneration X made the WWF-WCW war just a little more interesting back in April. The next step, Dave Rosenbaum predicts, could very well be actual WWF vs. WCW matches.

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PRO Wrestling Illustrated WEEKLY



HEART DISEASE KILLED PHILMAN

The Memphis Grizzlies' defensive anchor Philman, 31, was killed by a heart attack while watching a basketball game on television. He was a former professional wrestler and a member of the Memphis Grizzlies.

SHAWN WINS THIRD WWE TITLE; BRET BOUND FOR WCW?

Shawn Michaels captured his third WWF World Title by defeating Bret Hart in a hard-fought battle. Michaels' victory was a surprise, as Hart was the reigning champion. The match was a classic technical wrestling style, with both wrestlers showcasing their skills.

There is speculation that Bret Hart may be heading to WCW. Hart has been a key player in the WWF, and his departure would be a significant loss for the company. However, Hart has not yet made any official statements regarding his future.

Shawn Michaels' victory over Bret Hart was a major upset. Michaels has been a consistent performer in the WWF, and this win solidifies his status as a top contender for the title. The match was a highlight of the event, with both wrestlers giving their all.

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the Insider

by Brandi Mankiewicz

(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Brandi Mankiewicz alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

RULEBREAKING HAS HIT the upper echelon of professional wrestling. No longer are my favorite bad guys doomed to lurk in the muck and mud. Now they can sip champagne and eat caviar with the bluest of blue bloods. They have invaded the penthouse.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the meaner and less-than-gentle Vincent K. McMahon

Jr. He's more than a rulebreaking commissioner or president. This guy owns the store, lock, stock, and barrel. This guy makes the rules just so he can break them. He is a rulebreaker aficionado's dream come true. No longer does he just show his bias through broadcasting. Vince is becoming a stringent, no-nonsense, hands-on executive who invokes policy that seems to be more foul than fair.

Okay, I've heard all you people complain that Vinnie is nothing more than a knockoff of the renegade Eric Bischoff. Allow me to discredit that theory. Eric rebelled against the organization that employs him in order to help build

one of his own. Vince, already the owner of the WWF, is forcing the organization to conform to his agenda. He signs the checks, so you either do things his way or prepare to have your life made miserable. He is even willing to sacrifice the title reign of his amazingly popular, foul-mouthed World champion, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin.

Austin is in the eye of Hurricane Vince. He likes to think that he is the be-all and end-all when it comes to raising hell in the federation. But what he is up against is a foe that does not observe boundaries and has few limitations in the wallet. Austin can "stun" as many people as he wants and use that favorite obscene gesture of his all he wants. Eventually, Vince is the only one who can stop him.

To see Vince sidle on up to guys like Dude Love warms the cockles of my black heart. Imagine the WWF becoming the bane to all that is good. Soon Vince will be arm-and-arm with Kane and Paul Bearer, raising eyebrows with Rocky Maivia, and crotch-chopping with DeGeneration X. The possibilities are endless. I thought a rulebreaking magazine was a step in the right direction. A rulebreaking promotion is even better.

What is better still is that all the members of Vince's inner circle are willing to do his bidding. Gerald Brisco, Pat Patterson, and Sgt. Slaughter hang on Vince's every word and happily carry out his every order. They are always awaiting his next executive edict. I'm sure everyone from the administrative assistants on up are backing him up. They have to. After all, he owns the place.

(Continued on page 56)



Vince McMahon yells at Steve Austin, one of his employees (and the WWF World champ), while Sgt. Slaughter, Shane McMahon, and Gerald Brisco hold him back. Give Vinnie Mac credit for guts and for making the WWF more interesting.

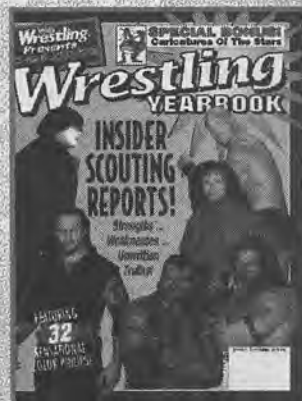
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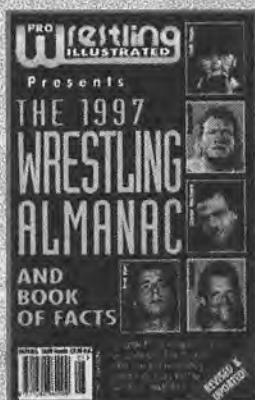
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ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

WHEN YOU GET Hunter Hearst Helmsley away from a wrestling ring, he is not such a bad guy after all. Really. I mean that.

As I typed out that first sentence, it didn't look right, but it's true. Reading it aloud sounds

strange as well. Ninety-nine percent of wrestling fans only see Hunter when he is within the confines of a wrestling ring ... or trying to invade a WCW arena with the rest of DeGeneration X.

I first met Helmsley when he was a struggling competitor in

WCW. He was then known as Terra Ryzing. He has gone through various transformations since. But I noticed the first time I talked to him that he was desperately searching for the right wrestling identity. He was trained by a true master of chaos in Killer Kowalski, and much of that training is paying off today as Hunter has infected the WWF with his own version of chaos.

Away from the ring, Helmsley can be more reflective and calm if you get him in the right setting. I did just that when I bumped into him at Logan International Airport in Boston this spring. We both had long layovers, so we decided to grab some seafood and chew the fat (so to speak) with the trusty tape recorder rolling. We talked about evolution. Not that of man in general, but that of "Triple-H."

"I spent the first part of my career listening to what the promoters had to say," he recalled. "They had ideas for what they wanted me to be, and I was afraid to be myself. When I came to the WWF, they thought of me as a blue blood from Connecticut. So I bowed, curtsied, and continued to pretend to be something I'm not."

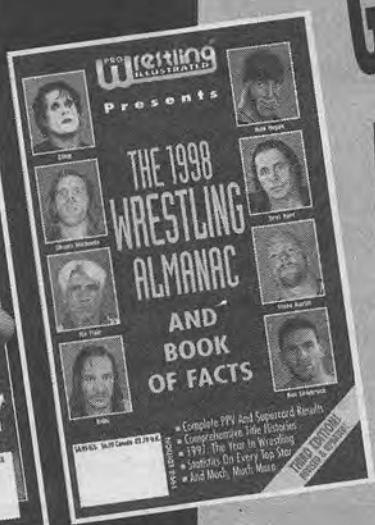
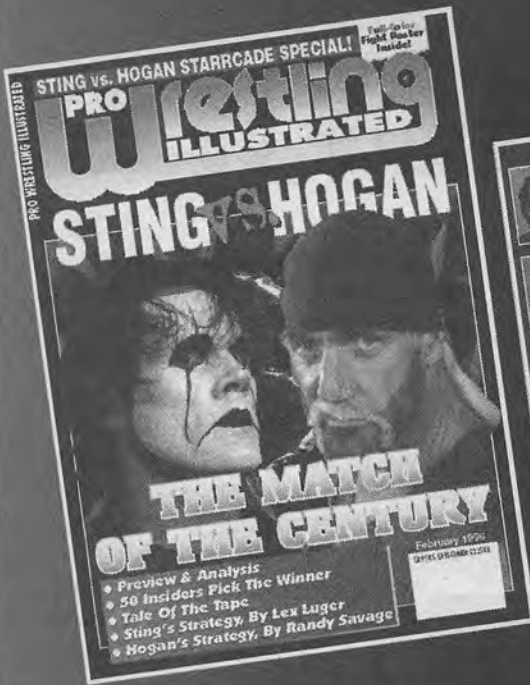
Helmsley tried so hard to be prim and proper, but the role hardly fit. When he brought in Chyna as his bodyguard, his demeanor began to change. When Shawn Michaels came calling with his ideas for a new clique, "Triple-H" listened intently.

"Second verse—same as the first, to be honest," remarked Helmsley. "Instead of promoters, it was Shawn calling the shots. Sure, he wanted me to be myself, but I was still under the direction of

(Continued on page 57)



Hard to believe that this man, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, used to be a relatively soft-spoken and polite blue blood. He's the loud and lewd leader of DeGeneration X now, but he can still be polite at times.



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INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE ²⁷⁰

SCOTT STEINER

WHEN WRESTLERS LIKE Hollywood Hogan, Rocky Maivia, or Justin Credible pull the despicable stunts they do, fans are outraged but rarely shocked. But when one of the most accomplished and respected wrestlers in the history of the sport turns on his lifelong teammate, his closest ally, *his own brother*, fans don't know how to react. And Scott Steiner has wrestling fans scratching their heads in wonder as he continues to attack his brother Rick, usually with a few of his NWO cronies backing him up ... Turned pro in 1986 and captured both the World Wrestling Association heavyweight and tag team titles in his first year ... Was third runner-up in 1988 Rookie of the Year voting in *PWI* ... After a brief stint in the CWA, Scott moved to the NWA and began teaming with his brother and feuding with Kevin Sullivan's Varsity Club (*"My brother had a lot of guts back then"*) ... Won their first NWA World tag title by beating Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin in November 1989 ... Lost the NWA World tag belts to Doom in May 1990, but won the U.S. belts from The Midnight Express three months later ... Were voted *PWI's* Tag Team of the Year for the first of two times in 1990 (*"There was no team better than Scott Steiner and his brother"*) ... The Steiners excelled in feuds with the Horsemen and the Freebirds, whom they beat to regain the World tag title in February 1991 ...

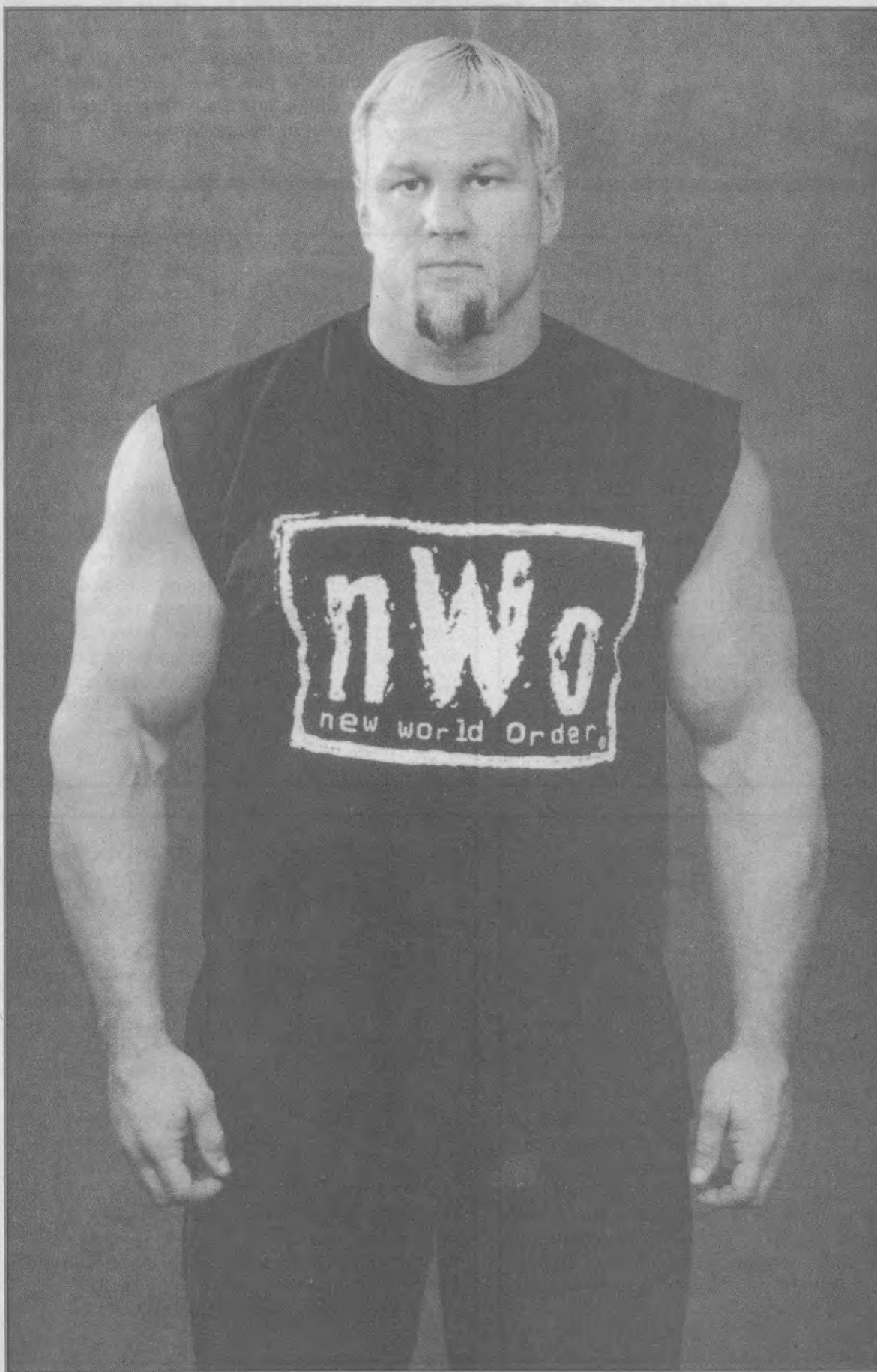
A month later, they beat Hiroshi Hase and Kensuke Sasaki for the IWGP tag belts (*"I'm as big in Japan as I am here"*) ... Beat Lex Luger and Sting in a classic battle at SuperBrawl in 1991 ... Scott had to take several months off after he tore his left biceps ... Six months after Scott returned, the Steiners beat Arn



Scott Steiner sets up WCW loyalist Hacksaw Duggan for a suplex. At this time last year, no one thought Scott would ever be at war with his brother, Rick, but he certainly is now.

Anderson and Bobby Eaton to regain the WCW World tag belts ... Beat Vader and Bam Bam Bigelow for the IWGP belts in June 1992 ... Were declared "the best tag team in the world" by Steve Williams and Terry Gordy, two of their rivals

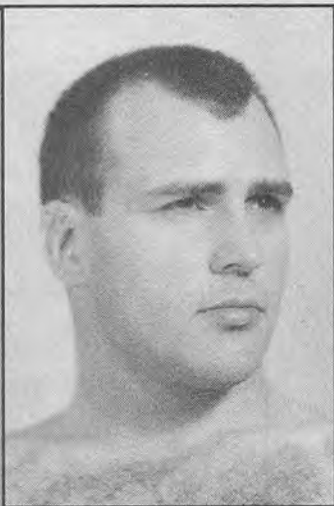
(*"Yeah, I was and am the best"*) ... Scott briefly held the WCW TV title while Rick was out with an injury ... They debuted in the WWF in December 1992, but it wasn't until six months later that they finally won the World tag title by defeating Ted DiBiase and Irwin R. Schyster (*"It took Rick forever to adjust to new surroundings"*) ... Left the WWF shortly after losing the belts to The Quebecers in a match contested under "Province Of Quebec" rules ... Spent most of their time wrestling in Japan during the next few years (*"The money was great, and that's really all that matters"*) ... Returned to the States in 1996 and feuded with such teams as The Road Warriors, Harlem Heat, and Public Enemy in WCW ... Beat the Heat for the belts in July, but held them for just three days ... Both Steiners were among WCW's most reliable soldiers during the early stages of its war with the NWO ... With DiBiase as their manager, they beat Scott Hall and Syxx for the WCW tag team belts in October 1997 ... In the months that followed, it became obvious that the brothers Steiner weren't getting along (*"It was all his fault"*) ... Lost the belts to Hall and Kevin Nash, then regained them a few weeks later ... Finally, though, Scott betrayed Rick and helped Hall and Nash win the belts back in February, at SuperBrawl VIII ... Now Rick and Scott, who calls himself "Big Poppa Pump," are in the midst of a heated feud (*"Rick would have avoided a lot of problems if he went NWO with me"*). □



SCOTT STEINER

Where Are They NOW

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



RICKI STARR

This former wrestler/ballet dancer did a masterful job of infuriating opponents by dancing around the ring and doing pirouettes as they tried to catch him. During the late-'60s, when he was in the middle of his two-decade career, Starr ventured to England to

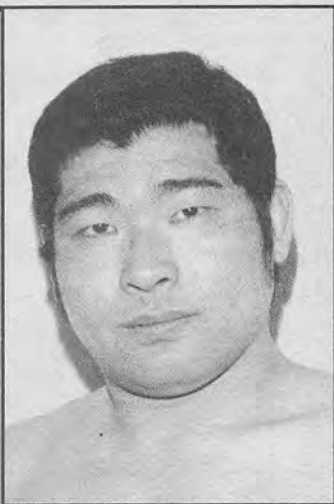
do some wrestling and also wound up doing some film and TV work. He retired from the sport in the late-'70s and today travels between England and Paris, where he works as a broker of fine wines.



CHRIS "TATANKA" CHAVIS

Once one of the most exciting athletes in the WWF, Chris left the federation almost three years ago and bought what has become a very successful Amway franchise. He still competes in the independents and even won the All-Star

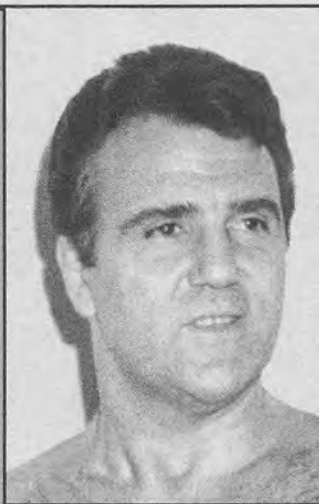
Wrestling South African title last year. He plans to wrestle in South Africa, Lebanon, and England soon, but says he is "happier than ever" now that he can spend a lot of time with his wife, Michelle, and his 2½-year-old daughter, Christiana.



KIM DUK

A martial arts expert, Kim Duk embarked on a reign of terror during the mid-'70s, feuding with stars such as Wahoo McDaniel and Jimmy Valiant in the NWA and Grizzly Smith in Mid-South. Terry and Dory Funk Jr. also had their problems with Duk, as

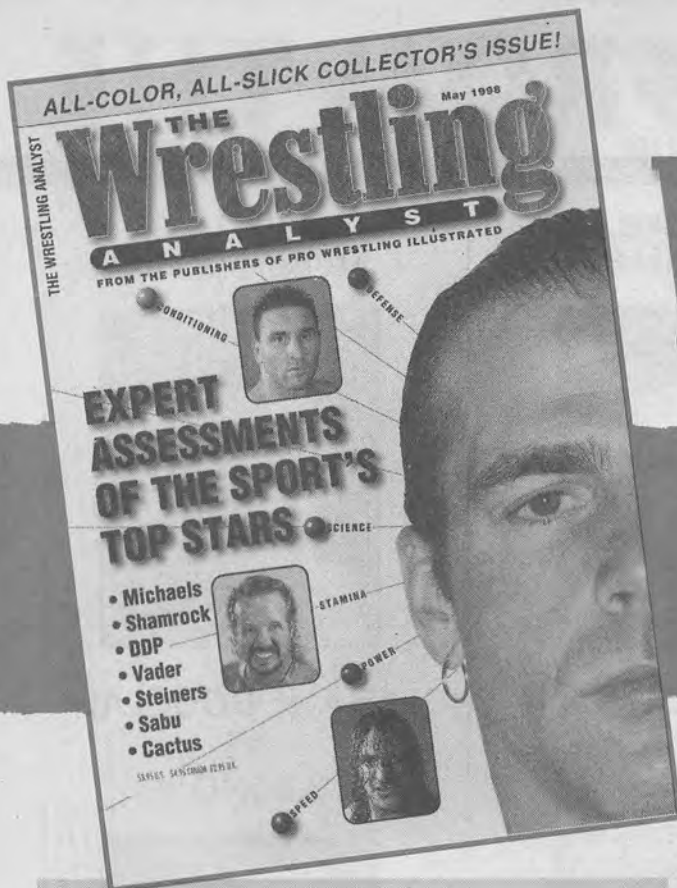
did Pampero Firpo, who feuded with him for a long time on the West Coast. Duk eventually returned to the Orient to compete in both Japan and his homeland, Korea. Today he wrestles and promotes cards there.



TONY LANZA

Lanza hasn't quite done it all, but he has done a lot. He's been both an amateur and professional wrestler, a boxer, a film actor, and a wrestling school trainer. Plus he holds a degree in hypnosis. What he is most famous for is his action and studio photography.

He got involved in that early in his life and was at one time the most famous photographer in the sport. Now 78, he keeps busy by taking walks daily, watching TV, and discussing the old days with friends.



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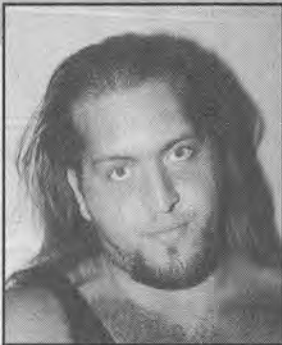
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NEWS FROM THE

AUGUSTA, GA
BY MARIA COLE



KEVIN NASH
VS.
THE GIANT



It's always dangerous wrestling Nash, but The Giant learned that it can be very painful as well. When the two big men finally squared off here, they smashed each other with kicks and punches. After a few minutes, The Giant backed Nash into a corner and repeatedly rammed his backside into Nash's stomach. The third time he did it, The Giant wiggled his butt toward Nash in an attempt to be funny, but that incensed "Big Sexy The Giant Killer." He proceeded to use his overwhelming power to fight out of the corner, then kicked The Giant in the groin. That act prompted the referee to immediately disqualify Nash.

OTHER BOUTS: Ernest Miller defeated Yuji Nagata ... Pez Whatley defeated Buddy Lee Parker ... Billy Kidman & Sick Boy beat High Voltage ... Perry Saturn defeated Dave "Fit" Finlay ... Chris Benoit defeated Booker T by submission.

GREENSBORO, NC
BY JOSH SHERNOFF



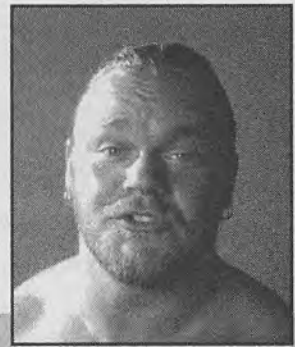
THE UNDERTAKER
VS.
KANE



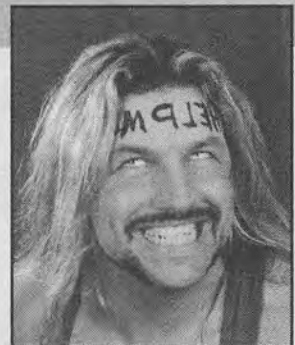
Undertaker needed a little help from Vader, but he beat Kane in an inferno match at Unforgiven. The flames surrounding the ring shot higher with each move made by both men. Midway through the match, they exchanged choke-slams. Later, 'Taker threw Kane out of the ring, and as Kane retreated, he was stopped by Vader, who forced him to return. For a while, 'Taker fought with both. Later, though, he nailed Kane with a chair shot, sending him flying into the flames. When Kane's arm caught fire, 'Taker was declared the winner.

OTHER BOUTS: Ken Shamrock, Steve Blackman, & Faarooq beat Rocky Maivia, D-Lo Brown, & Mark Henry ... Hunter Hearst Helmsley beat Owen Hart ... NWA tag team champs The New Midnight Express beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... Luna beat Sable in an evening gown match ... WWF World tag team champs The New Age Outlaws defeated LOD 2000 ... Dude Love beat WWF World champ Steve Austin by disqualification.

MARIETTA, GA
BY DONALD FUTE



SHANE DOUGLAS
VS.
AL SNOW

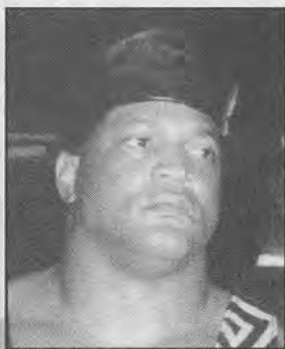


Though he went into Wrestlepalooza with injuries to his elbow, cheekbone, and palate, Douglas managed to retain his ECW heavyweight title by beating Snow. Douglas controlled the early part of the match. Just as Snow gained momentum, Chris Candido and Bam Bam Bigelow interfered on Douglas' behalf. Soon, the other ECW wrestlers came to ringside to cheer Snow on. After Snow used a "Snow Plow" on Douglas, Francine ran in and got "Snow Plowed" herself. Finally, Snow tried a sunset flip, but Douglas dropped down and sat on his shoulders for the pin.

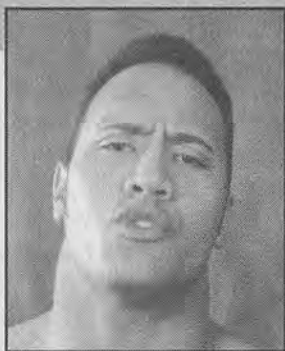
OTHER BOUTS: The Blue Meanie & Super Nova beat Tracey Smothers & Little Guido ... Justin Credible pinned Mikey Whipwreck ... ECW tag team champs Chris Candido & Lance Storm beat Mahoney & Axl Rotten ... Tommy Dreamer & The Sandman beat Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley ... Bam Bam Bigelow beat New Jack ... ECW TV champ Rob Van Dam and Sabu wrestled to a 30-minute draw.

WRESTLING CAPITALS

HERSHEY, PA
BY BRIAN KOURY



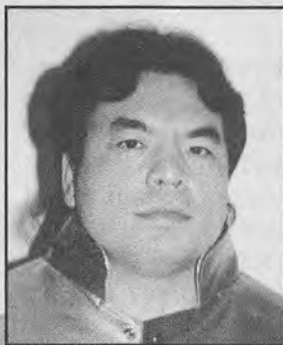
FAAROOQ
VS.
ROCKY MAIVIA



"The Rock" was supposed to face Ken Shamrock, but Shamrock couldn't compete because of an ankle injury. As Rocky celebrated his "default" victory, it was announced that Maivia would have to face another opponent: Faarooq. Clad in street clothes, Faarooq stormed the ring and quickly started beating on Maivia. Rocky needed the rest of The Nation of Domination to help him escape Faarooq's wrath. He was disqualified soon after they hit the ring, but the group continued to attack Faarooq. He eventually used a chair to fend them off.

OTHER BOUTS: Brian Christopher & Scott Taylor beat Taka Michinoku & Aguila ... Steve Blackman pinned Savio Vega ... Bradshaw beat Goldust ... The Headbangers defeated NWA tag team champs The Midnight Express in a non-title match ... Hunter Hearst Helmsley pinned Owen Hart ... LOD 2000 beat The New Age Outlaws by disqualification ... The Undertaker pinned Kane.

TOKYO, JAPAN
BY KOICHI YOSHIZAWA



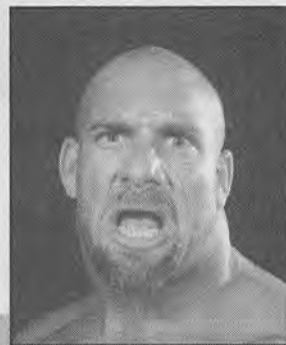
MITSUHARU MISAWA
VS.
TOSHIAKI KAWADA



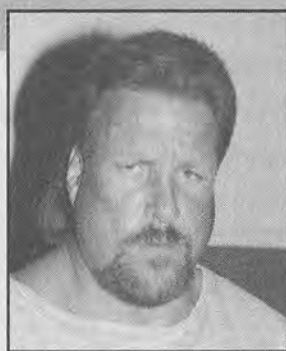
Kawada won the All-Japan Triple Crown by beating the injured Misawa in a grueling match. The two traded several moves to get many two-counts. After using a power bomb, Kawada covered Misawa, but he kicked out. Finally, after using a second power bomb, Kawada got the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Satoru Asako beat Yoshinobu Kanemaru ... Maunukea Mossman beat Daisuke Ikeda ... Jumbo Tsuruta, Rusher Kimura, & Mitsuo Momota beat Masa Fuchi, Haruka Eigen, & Tsuyoshi Kikuchi ... The Headhunters defeated Okumura & Tamon Honda ... Johnny Smith & Wolf Hawkfield beat Jado & Gedo ... Akira Taue, Takao Omori, & Masao Inoue beat The Gladiator, Tetsuhiro Kuroda, & Hideki Hosaka ... Steve Williams & Gary Albright defeated Masahito Kakihara & Yoshihiro Takayama ... Giant Baba, Hayabusa, & Kentaro Shiga beat Giant Kimura, Jinsei Shizaki, & Jun Iizumida ... Jun Akiyama defeated Hiroshi Hase ... Kenta Kobashi & Johnny Ace beat Stan Hansen & Vader.

SALISBURY, MD
BY HARRY BURKETT



BILL GOLDBERG
VS.
SCOTT NORTON



U.S. champ Goldberg started this match at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center by pounding Norton with a series of punches, followed by several knees to the stomach. Norton, savvy from previous encounters, then guided the action to the arena floor and sent Goldberg sailing into the security railing. He tried ramming Goldberg's head into the ringsteps, but Goldberg reversed that move. Back in the ring, Norton briefly regained the advantage by applying a nervehold to Goldberg's massive neck muscles. Goldberg soon escaped, however, and rallied to win after using a "spear" and a devastating "jackhammer."

OTHER BOUTS: Dallas Page beat Raven in a no-disqualification match ... Juventud Guerrera beat WCW cruiserweight champ Chris Jericho by countout ... Disco Inferno pinned Hammer ... Juventud Guerrera & Ciclope beat La Parka & Psicosis ... Ernest Miller beat Billy Kidman ... Bobby Eaton beat Julio Sanchez.



Matt Brock's **Plain** *Speaking*

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

First things first. Attended the funeral of Sheila Warner, that old flame of mine, and was surprised to see how many old-time wrestlers attended. It seemed like Sheila, who was a big wrestling fan, made a lot of friends in the business, and many of them never forgot her. Strange thing, though, was that most of them didn't

know we had been an item for about a year, so maybe we weren't really an item at all. "You? Sheila?" one of them said, and it wasn't until I told them about the answering machine that they even believed I knew her. "Yeah, that sounds like Sheila," he said. Also ran into Fabulous Moolah, who's still looking great. A lot of sadness at a time like this, but a lot of happiness, too. For one thing, and this might sound cold, I'm glad I didn't give in and marry her, because then old Matt Brock would be a widower right now, and if there's anything worse

NEW YORK, NY

than an old man, it's an old widower. Anyway, Sheila Warner, may she rest in peace, and let it be known that from this moment on, yours truly is through with women. Matt Brock will go to his grave as an old bachelor. Case closed.

Don't much like it here. Too many rich blond people with fancy cars and fancy houses, and not much character at all. Strange place to hold a wrestling match, and an even stranger place for a mean dude like Bill Goldberg to win his first major title. Goldberg, a former NFL player, has looked from the start like a can't-miss wrestling prospect, and he's been plowing over his opponents ever since he stepped foot in WCW. If Goldberg had his way, every night he'd smash every guy who got in his way to pieces, but these days he's trying to stay focused. Right here, it says he destroyed Raven for the WCW U.S. title and Raven never

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

had a chance in hell. Raven's Flock, whatever that is, interfered, but Goldberg fought them off, then destroyed Raven with a "jackhammer" that just about shook the building. Goldberg's been around the sport for less than a year, but already he looks like a veteran with a cause. People still compare him to Steve Austin, and even though Goldberg doesn't like the comparison, it's appropriate. Goldberg vs. Hulk Hogan has to be next, and if I'm Hulk Hogan, I'm not sleeping nights. The



BILL GOLDBERG

way it's gone for Hogan over the past year, he only wins by cheating. And Goldberg's not going to let that happen.

Vince McMahon Jr. is a very bright man who made a lot of money by transforming the wrestling business into show business, but sometimes he doesn't have a lot of common sense. Either that or he thinks too much of himself, or maybe he doesn't realize what he's getting into. Let's face it: When you're successful in one area of life, sometimes you think you know it all about everything else. One thing Sheila used to always say to me: "Matt, dogs bark and cats meow, and they do it better than any other creatures on Earth. But

when dogs try meowing and cats try barking, that's when they discover their limitations." McMahon's interference in Steve Austin's business is a big mistake on McMahon's part, and not just because the head of a major federation shouldn't be interfering in matches. McMahon, who's in pretty good shape for a suit, shouldn't be messing around with Austin, because Austin has the physical ability to hurt him badly and permanently. That's just what Austin did at the WWF's Unforgiven pay-per-view, when McMahon, standing at ringside, tried to exert a little too much control over the match. Austin clobbered him with a chair during his match against Dude Love (who, by the way, will always be Cactus Jack in my book) and McMahon ended up being carried away on a stretcher. No serious injuries, but surely that's only a temporary situation if McMahon keeps sticking his nose where it doesn't belong. Dogs bark. Cats meow. McMahon might be sly as a fox when it comes to business, but

GREENSBORO, NC



VINCE McMAHON

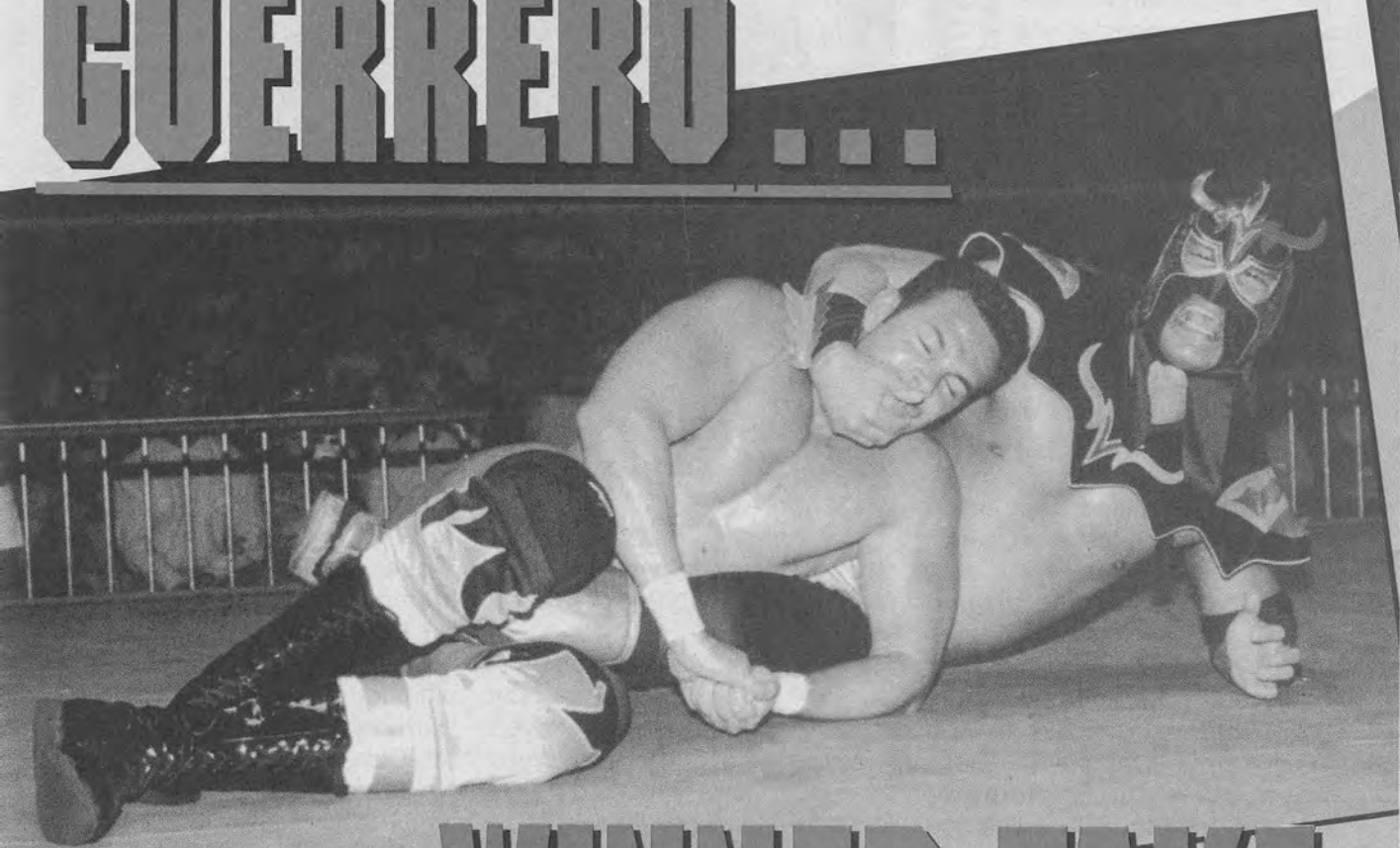
when it comes to wrestling, he's howling at the wrong moon.

"Psycho" Sid Vicious isn't wrestling like a crazy man and isn't even wrestling like a former WWF World champion. He's wrestling like an inexperienced independent wrestler. Watched him struggle to beat a guy named Danger Man in Northeast Wrestling and heard he got pinned by Rik Ratchet on an NWA card the day after. Sid was pretty steamed afterward because Ratchet hit him with a pair of brass knuckles handed to him by The Master, his manager, before getting the pin. Talk about how the mighty have fallen.

WASHINGTON, CT

Vicious should be the big man in a small independent federation like Northeast Wrestling, but you'd never know it. Meanwhile, a few other former big stars of wrestling, like King Kong Bundy and Doink the Clown, are also wrestling in Northeast, proving without a doubt that some guys never fade away. They just keep on wrestling. Some things just don't make any sense. What's wrong with retirement? Sure, I know, a lot of people might say the same thing to me: "Hey, Matt Brock, why don't you put away your pencil and just call it quits?" Okay, fine. Maybe I will. Besides, it's been a long time since I went to a wrestling match just to go to a wrestling match. Working the beat's fine, but it can also be a grind. We'll see. □

ULTIMO DRAGON CHALLENGES EDDY GUERRERO...



WINNER TAKE CHAVO!

IN HIS QUIET moments, Ultimo Dragon spends a lot of time wondering, *How can blood relatives be so different?* It's a question millions of people have pondered about millions of relatives, but there are no simple answers. Sometimes, relatives are as different as total strangers. And sometimes, total strangers are as similar as identical twins. It's just the way things are.

Still, some things make no sense. Eddy Guerrero, for example. "Why would he be so desperate to humiliate his own nephew?" Ultimo Dragon wondered aloud. "The Guerreros are a great wrestling family. They have a proud heritage. Why would Eddy go so far out of his way to ruin it?"

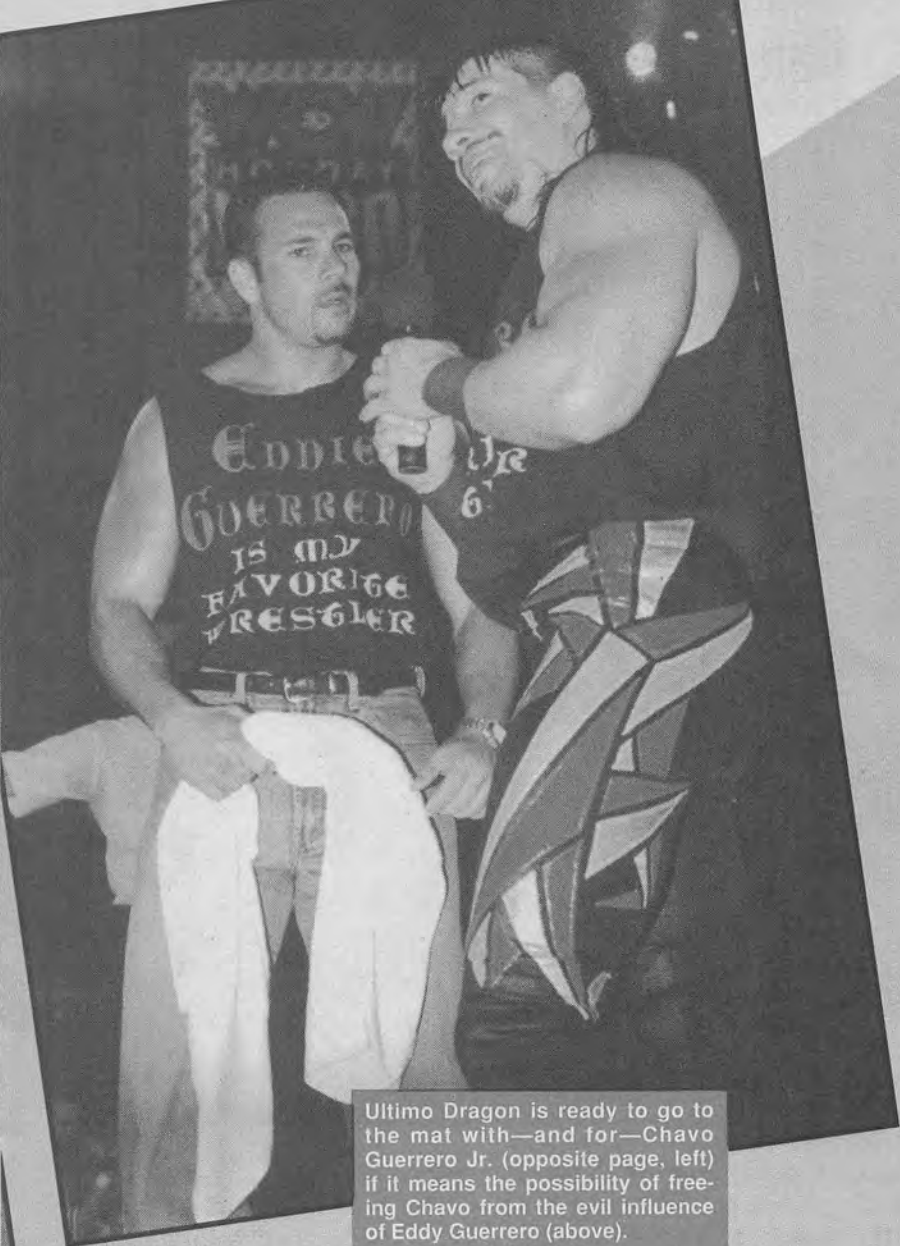
Ultimo Dragon thinks about that often, and when he can't come up with a logical answer, he gets angry. Fighting angry. Angry enough that he'd love to wrap Eddy Guerrero around a ringpost and teach him a few lessons about the importance of respect and family and heritage. If only he could get his hands on Guerrero.

If only ...

And therein lies the problem. Eddy Guerrero likes the status quo. He likes being the bad guy. He thrives on cheating. He had been trying for the longest time to get his nephew to be more like him: to break the rules, taunt the fans, and justify any means by the end. Chavo resisted for a while, but then he and his uncle had a match with the stipulation that if Eddy won, Chavo would have to start doing things his way. And if Chavo won, Eddy would have to start doing things his way.

Eddy won, and it's been a nightmare ever since.

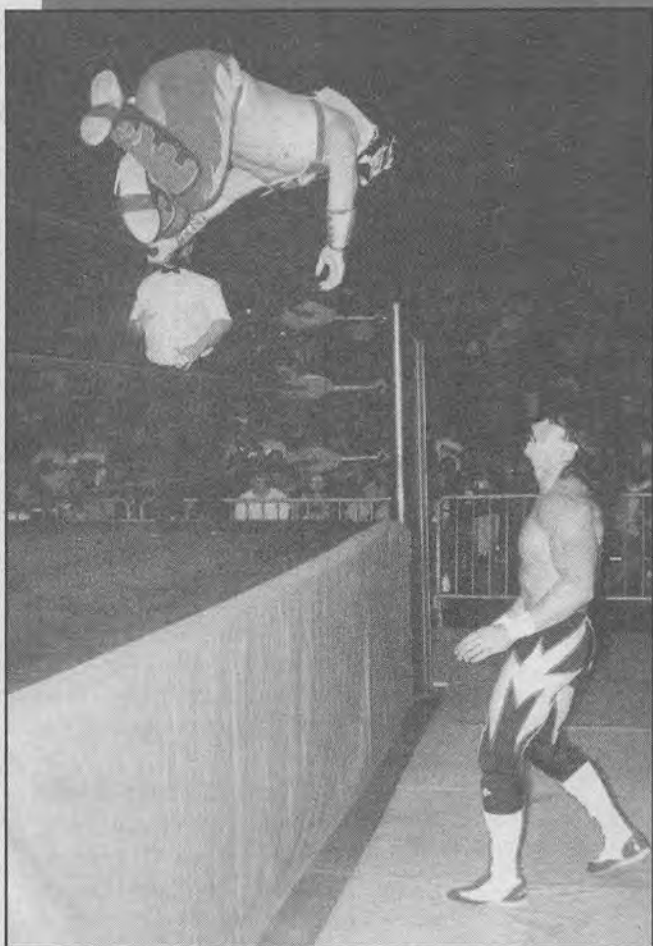
"Chavo doesn't want to cheat," Ultimo Dragon said. "He doesn't want to help his uncle. He has



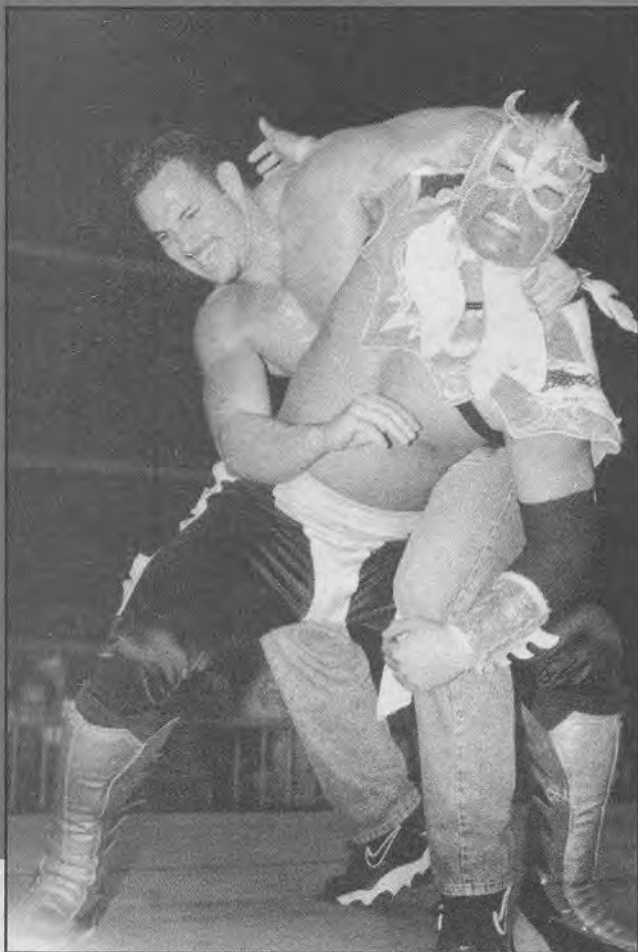
Ultimo Dragon is ready to go to the mat with—and for—Chavo Guerrero Jr. (opposite page, left) if it means the possibility of freeing Chavo from the evil influence of Eddy Guerrero (above).

Chavo Guerrero's mind is being poisoned by his uncle Eddy, and it seems there's nothing he can do to stop it.

Ultimo Dragon feels pained watching this scenario unfold ... but thinks he can help



Dragon has experience wrestling both Eddy (left) and Chavo (below), yet is still perplexed at the peculiarities of their familial relationship.



him wearing those ridiculous Eddy Guerrero T-shirts and interfering in his matches."

Not to mention apologizing to Grandma Guerrero on national TV for losing matches.

"Yes, every single time," Ultimo said. "As if he's letting the Guerreros down. Well, Chavo Guerrero Jr. hasn't let down anyone. If anyone's been disappointing, it's been Eddy, the way he's been acting. But let me tell you something else: If Eddy has any guts, he'll offer me the same match he offered Chavo. Me vs. Eddy. If he wins, he retains control of Chavo. But if I win, I get Chavo. And then Chavo goes free."

Winner take Chavo? Sounds like a great concept!

Chavo, a native of El Paso, Texas, and Ultimo, who spends most of his time living in Mexico City, Mexico, go way back. They

both spent years wrestling in Mexico and

became good friends. They'd spend time together before and after matches, exchange tips, help each other out, or just be friends.

Along the way, Ultimo gained deep respect for Chavo. "I knew he had great talent," Ultimo said. And Chavo, in turn, gained deep respect for Ultimo. "He's one of the most amazing wrestlers I've ever seen," Chavo once said.

The biggest problem, said Ultimo Dragon, is that Eddy's behavior appears to be having a negative effect on Chavo. More and more, Chavo is doing Eddy's bidding with less and less reluctance. He'll even interfere in Eddy's matches. When Ultimo beat Chavo Jr. at Spring Stampede, he noticed that Chavo was

lacking intensity.

"He wasn't in there for himself," Ultimo said. "He wasn't in there for *anybody*. It's like he's become some kind of zombie. I don't know. It's bad. It's scary. I want to do something about it."

But Ultimo might be too late. Chavo said he doesn't need any help and wants Ultimo to mind his own business.

"Ultimo Dragon think he knows everything," Chavo said. "He thinks he knows what's best for me, but he doesn't even know what's best for himself. You can say what you want about Eddy, but all I know is this: He's my uncle. He's my own flesh and blood. Maybe people don't like the things he's making me do, but he wouldn't be doing these

things if he didn't care about me."

There's the rub, as far as Ultimo Dragon is concerned. The longer Eddy has control over Chavo, the more he'll be able to influence him. It's as if Chavo is being brainwashed.

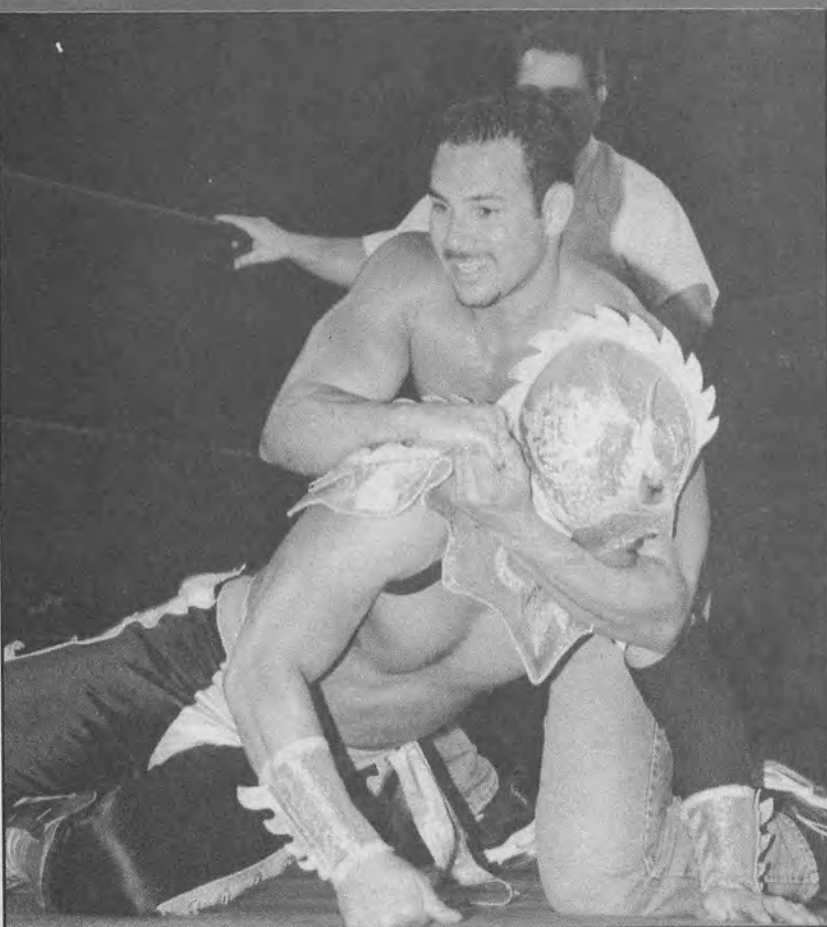
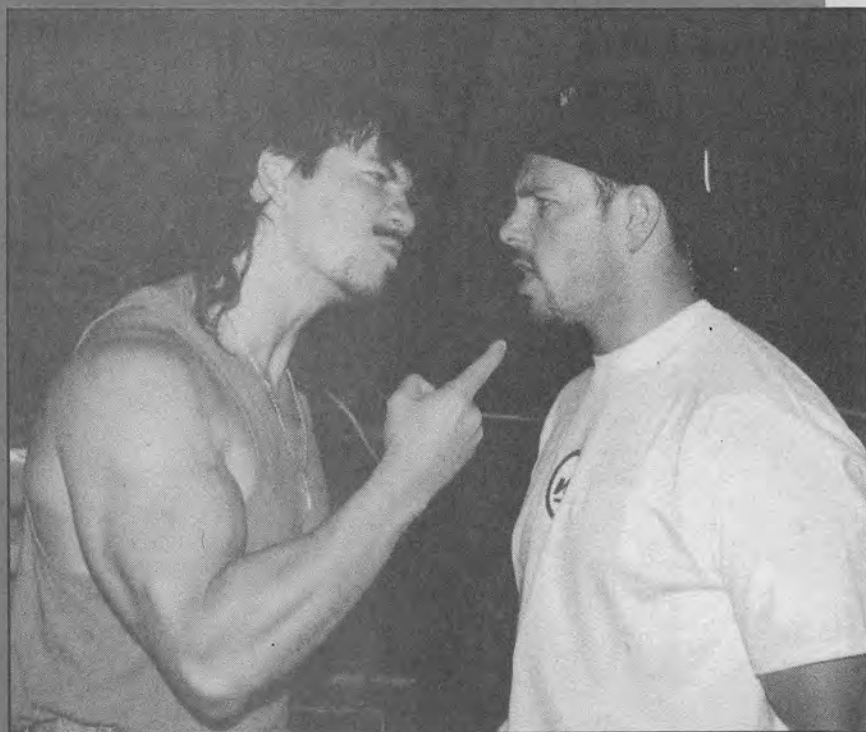
"His mind is being poisoned," Ultimo said.

Which leaves one question: What does Eddy Guerrero have to gain by stepping into the ring with Ultimo Dragon? Nothing. And the new Eddy Guerrero—the rulebreaker, as opposed to the old fan favorite—doesn't do anything unless there's something in it for him.

"I'm not stupid," Eddy said. "Everybody knows that."

Including Ultimo, who isn't willing to give up on Chavo without a fight ... even if Chavo has given up on himself. □

Ultimo can't stand the way Eddy constantly berates Chavo. He thinks Chavo needs to get away from Eddy's evil influences before it's too late.



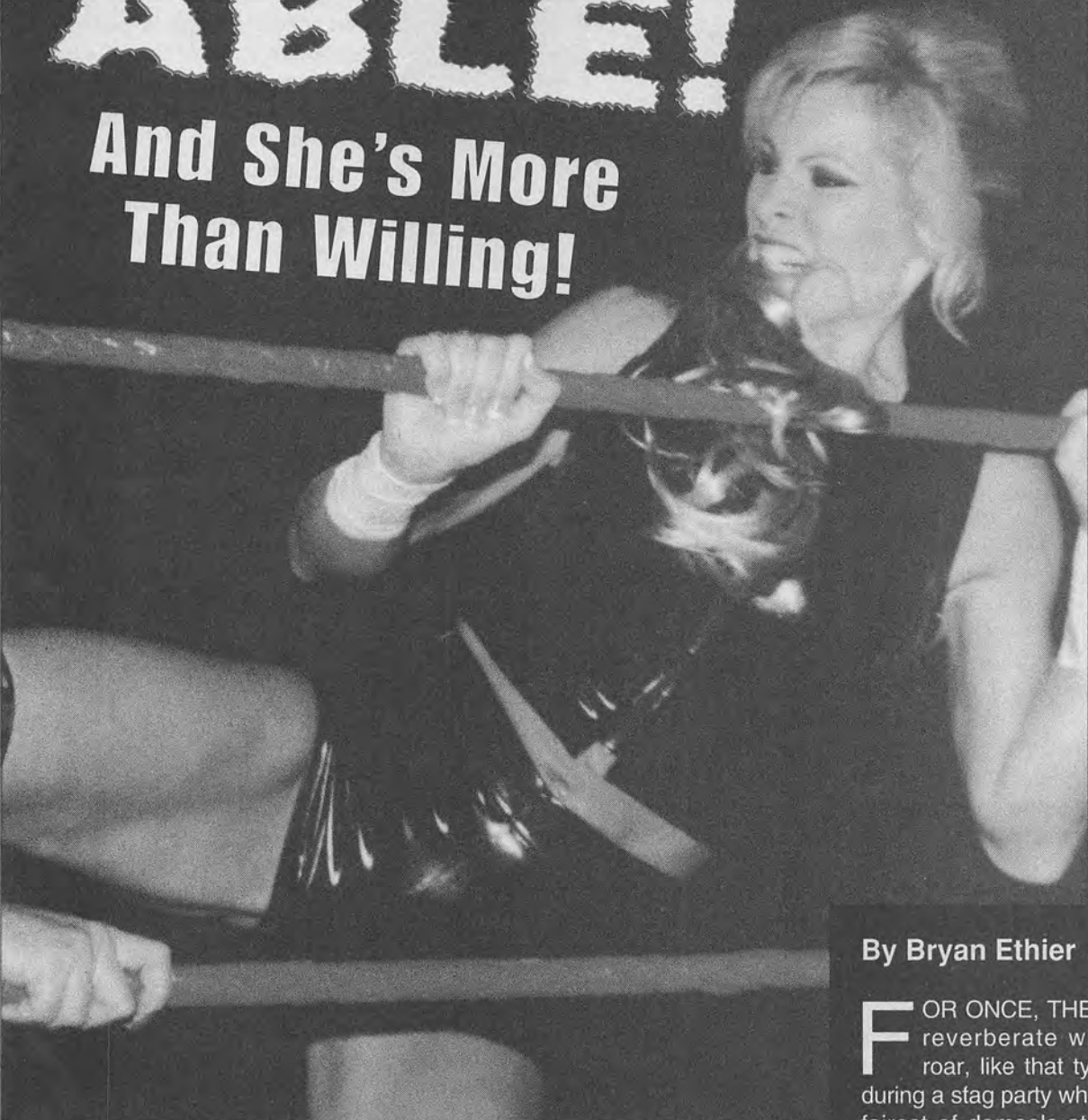
Chavo has told Dragon to mind his own business, that he doesn't want—or need—his help in any respect.



Sable gets her kicks showing off her previously unknown athletic skills against Luna (left and above). Now she's ready to move past Luna to other opponents!

SABLE IS ABLE!

**And She's More
Than Willing!**



Sable claims she'll take on Luna "with or without clothes on." Sure, she talks a good game, but is she ready to show the world that she's more than just a pretty face? Hell, yes!

By Bryan Ethier

FOR ONCE, THE arena didn't reverberate with a bawdy roar, like that typically found during a stag party when the town's fairest of damsels strips down to just a G-string and a set of faux pearls.

The few libidinous hoots to be heard were all but drowned out by a raucous cheer of acceptance from an arena packed with fans who suddenly saw Sable in a different light.

The voluptuous ingenue with



After taking a lot of verbal abuse from Marc Mero, Sable is ready and willing to stand up for herself. Even Mero is backing down from her a bit.

the cascading cornsilk mane surveyed the crowd as she strutted down the runway. A few raised signs recalled a time when she was known simply as "the one with the pretty elfin face": SABLE, LET ME TAKE YOU HOEM, one sign read. Another poster waving in the second deck of the arena said, YOU ARE MY DREAM GIRL. Clearly, spelling is not a prerequisite to purchasing a ticket.

Sable flashed the grin her fans had come to adore; she waved her hands fluidly, then continued making her way to the ring.

Suddenly, she paused, transfixed by something she spotted in the crowd. She raised her right hand to her eyes to shield them from the glare of the bright lights. Fans in the front row could read her lips, as she read the words, painted in red, on a large white sheet: SABLE, KICK MY NEIGHBOR'S BUTT.

Sable spun around and climbed into the ring. The happy grin was gone, replaced by an intense look of anger and determination. Moments later, Luna entered the ring to a cascade of boos. Before anyone had a chance to take a seat, Sable was atop Luna, slamming the rulebreaker's head repeatedly

against the mat.

Sable's transition from mealy-mouthed supplicant to sneering, snarling pit bull was born from fierce survival instincts threatened once too often by an overbearing Marc Mero.

For months, "The Marvelous One" stifled the creative and competitive instincts of his better half. Sable's natural effervescence appealed to fans of both genders; and, of course, what male fan could divert his eyes when she slinked into the ring wearing little more than a spool of thread?

As her popularity escalated, Mero's diminished, and that created a firestorm of friction between them. Notwithstanding Sable's loyalty to Mero, he often reprimanded and ridiculed her in public.

Sable's subservience unofficially came to a crashing halt at WrestleMania XIV during a mixed tag team match that featured her and Mero vs. Goldust and Luna. Fans at Boston's FleetCenter gasped with wonder as Sable raced around the ring, cornering her opponent like a speedy cougar. And when they tangled, chin to chin, Sable let out all the stops, stomping Luna, pulling her, wrenching her neck. She impressed the gurus of technique with efficient roundkicks and debilitating clotheslines. In the end, she finished off Luna (an accomplished grappler) and single-handedly won the match with a power bomb and a "TKO," a

move made famous by Mero.

The match ended to a spirited chorus of "Sa-ble! Sa-ble! Sa-ble!"

That Sable ultimately found her way into the squared circle should come as no surprise. Over the years, most valets and managers have scored themselves at least a legitimate match or two. But what



Watch out, Goldust: In a mixed match, you're not about to come out ahead of Sable so easily! When she gets angry, she's difficult to stop!

separates Sable from, say, Elizabeth, Kimberly, Beulah, Francine, Missy Hyatt, and Sunny is her natural athletic talent—and a surprisingly strong grasp of scientific maneuvers.

"I heard she was gonna wrestle. I thought that was the best thing for the chick, ya know?" smiled Dude Love. "But where did she learn to wrestle like that? She's got some great moves, ya know. For a chick."

How, when, and where Sable received her wrestling instruction is a subject of wide discussion.

"She must be getting private training, because I am not aware of her working in any wrestling school," commented Killer Kowalski, who operates one of the sport's premier training facilities.

From whom she received her instruction remains a mystery as well. Insiders say Mero did not try to help her in any way, though he tried to take credit for her training before the two finally split up in late-April. "He's still jealous of her," says WWF broadcaster Michael Cole.

While many wonder where Sable developed her wrestling prowess, a few insightful wrestling aficionados are looking for clues into her heart and mind. For months, Sable quietly accepted Mero's demeaning remarks, his public reproaches, his condescension. She followed her friend into the ring, studied his style,

and analyzed his demeanor. She did the same with his opponents; she was like a baseball pitcher scouting opposing batters. Finally, when she was confident she could handle herself in the ring, she made her move.

"Everything Sable has done strikes me as very pre-planned, as if she *always* had a scheme she was going to follow, regardless of the barriers and setbacks," said Jim Ross. "I can't imagine why she would have patiently accepted Mero's blatantly disrespectful treatment of her otherwise."

During six very painful months, Sable waited her turn and acted with class amidst a storm of criticism from Mero. Today, *Mero* is the one forced out of the limelight, the one turning green with envy as Sable hears the applause.

"If Marc is half as smart as Sable, he'll keep his nose clean and recognize where his bread is buttered these days," added Cole. "He needs her. It was Mero who introduced



Vachon may be a very experienced wrestler, but Sable surprised her—and just about everyone—when they faced off in the ring at WrestleMania XIV.

Sable to the fans. He was once the star, and she rode in with him on his white horse. She was smart and savvy, and she played the role of his silent second very well. Then, when the fans told her it was time, she shrugged Mero off and rode off on that white horse. Mero should go along with her on her ride; and when his turn comes around again, maybe the WWF will have a highly popular—and effective—wrestling couple."

Mero was at the top of his game when he employed flashy and breathtaking aerial maneuvers. Since returning from a serious knee injury, he has changed his style, relying more on boxing moves and brawn. It is a strategy that, most fans feel, has failed him.

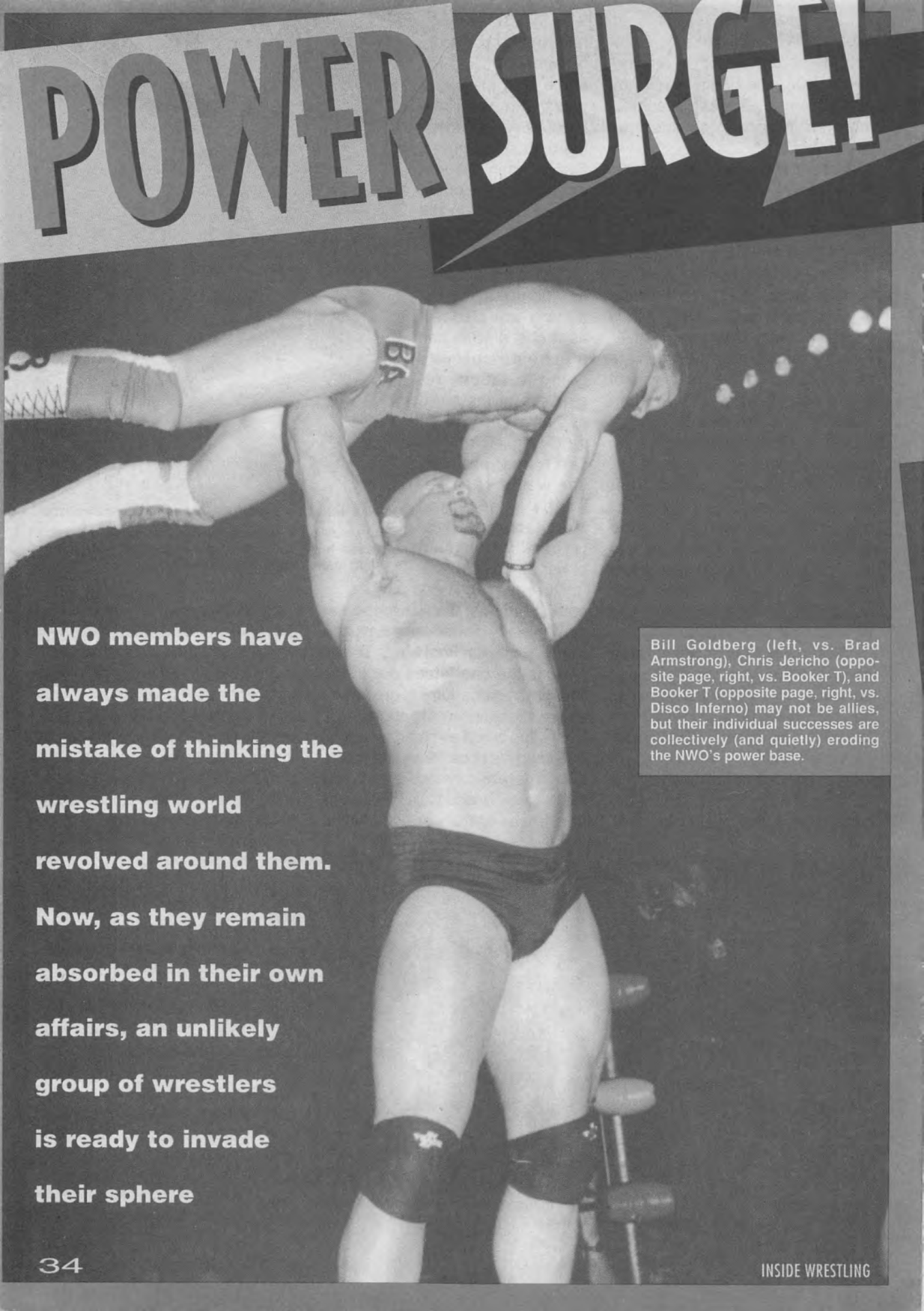
These days in the WWF, Mero is out and Sable is in. It all boils down to the issue of respect; Sable has it and Mero doesn't.

All you need to do is listen to the cheers in the arena to hear the difference. □



Mero tries to hold back Sable, but it's obvious that she doesn't need any assistance from him anymore. She's strong enough both mentally and physically to thrive on her own.

POWER SURGE!



NWO members have always made the mistake of thinking the wrestling world revolved around them. Now, as they remain absorbed in their own affairs, an unlikely group of wrestlers is ready to invade their sphere

Bill Goldberg (left, vs. Brad Armstrong), Chris Jericho (opposite page, right, vs. Booker T), and Booker T (opposite page, right, vs. Disco Inferno) may not be allies, but their individual successes are collectively (and quietly) eroding the NWO's power base.

WHILE THE NWO FIDDLES THESE MEN ARE BURNING!

By Harry Burkett

THE NWO'S ASSAULT on WCW has come to a grinding halt, primarily due to an escalating power struggle. Thanks to these internal conflicts, the NWO is vulnerable to a handful of men who could bring its walls crumbling down. Who are these mighty soldiers riding to WCW's rescue? Bill Goldberg, Booker T, and Chris Jericho.

What?

Are we serious?

We certainly are.

No, these men haven't decided to form the latest incarnation of The Four Horsemen. Goldberg's Jocks? Not quite. The Dungeon of Dudes? No way. How about The Jerichoholics? Absolutely not.

These men are neither friends nor allies. They don't even associate with each other. But each of these wrestlers can call 1998 his breakout year.

Goldberg's amazing undefeated streak, and his subsequent U.S. title win, has made him an impact player in only seven months. Booker T put his Harlem Heat days behind him and has been recognized as one of the best TV champs in recent memory. And despite his juvenile attitude, Jericho has become the most dominant cruiserweight champion in WCW history.





While NWO members like Randy Savage and Scott Hall are infighting (above), Hollywood Hogan (right) should be worried about wrestlers the NWO isn't deflecting away from him.



Together, they pose the single greatest threat to the NWO.

You don't believe us? Just look at their records. How many titles do WCW's "megastars" like Sting, Lex Luger, The Giant, Dallas Page, and Roddy Piper possess? Zero. Zip. Zilch. Nada. None.

Goldberg, Booker T, and Jericho have two titles among them, and how long will it be before Booker has the TV belt back? They may not be unified for a common cause, but their burning desire has set WCW ablaze in recent months.

"The NWO is scared to death, but they're not willing to admit it," said Bobby Eaton. "They don't even have a cruiserweight who can challenge Jericho, and they all know that Booker T is too hot to be handled right now. Hollywood Hogan is quaking in his boots because he knows Goldberg is gonna be knockin' on his door for

the World title soon; believe me, the NWO doesn't want a piece of him again. All these up-and-comers are chewing away at the NWO like termites. Hogan, Nash, Savage, and the whole gang had better call an exterminator real, real soon."

And this trio has plenty of political muscle to match its physical prowess. U.S. champion Goldberg, former TV champion Booker T, and cruiserweight champion Chris Jericho represent a powerful block in WCW. If these men actually joined forces, they might have a great chance of dismantling the NWO, right?

Maybe not.

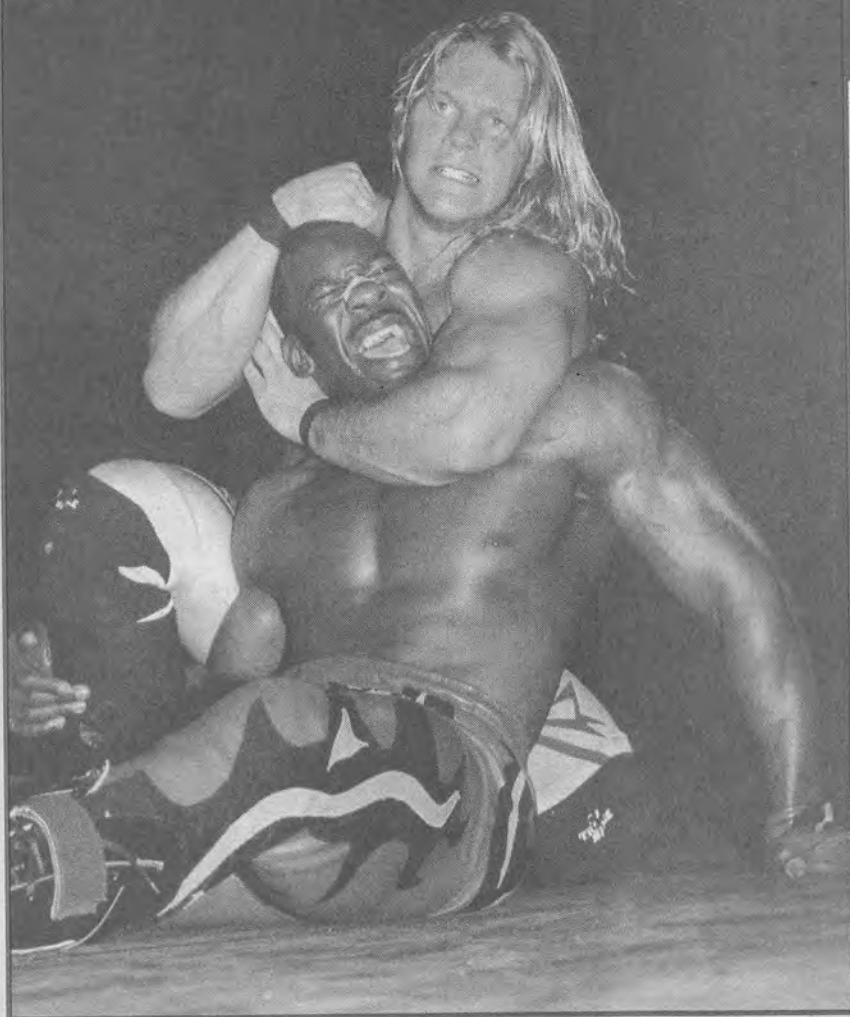
Their strength is their diversity. It's more difficult for the NWO to fight individual foes on several different fronts, rather than battling one unified force. Remember how afraid the group was of Sting just a few months ago? The NWO loses

confidence—and is less intimidating—when powerful individuals dare to challenge its status quo.

The most interesting aspect of all this is that none of these men need to face NWO members head-to-head in order to cause damage. Their individual successes, and their high rankings in WCW, sap power from the NWO by osmosis. Every time Booker T or Jericho gains a victory, for example, men like Curt Hennig, Konnan, Scott Steiner, Scott Norton, and Brian Adams drop a few notches down the contenders' lists.

So isn't the NWO concerned about the rise of these upstarts?

"This is the weakest drivel I've heard in months," responded Eric Bischoff. "Some of these so-called 'young lions' may be turning a few heads, but they can't touch us. Nobody in his right mind really thinks Booker T or any of the oth-



Chris Jericho (applying a sleeperhold to Booker T) hasn't targeted the NWO specifically, but the NWO is feeling some of the fallout from his winning momentum.

is because they haven't publicly targeted the NWO for a full-scale assault. Ironically, that's why these athletes have been so successful: They have remained focused on their goals and haven't been dragged into the WCW-NWO war.

"Everyone has lost sight of the fact that wrestling is all about competition," explained Booker T. "It's not about power struggles or giving good interviews. It's about winning matches. That's why the NWO hasn't been a major preoccupation of mine. I'd rather wrestle Goldberg, Chris Benoit, or Chris Jericho. A lot of other wrestlers are beginning to realize that, too. Those NWO losers can't survive if guys like me keep stealing their spotlight."

Therein lies the NWO's greatest threat. While Hogan, Nash, and Savage play their round-robin head games with each other, WCW's "new generation" is gaining momentum. Goldberg, Booker T, and Jericho will no longer be denied.

The NWO, for the sake of its own survival, should pay heed. ☐

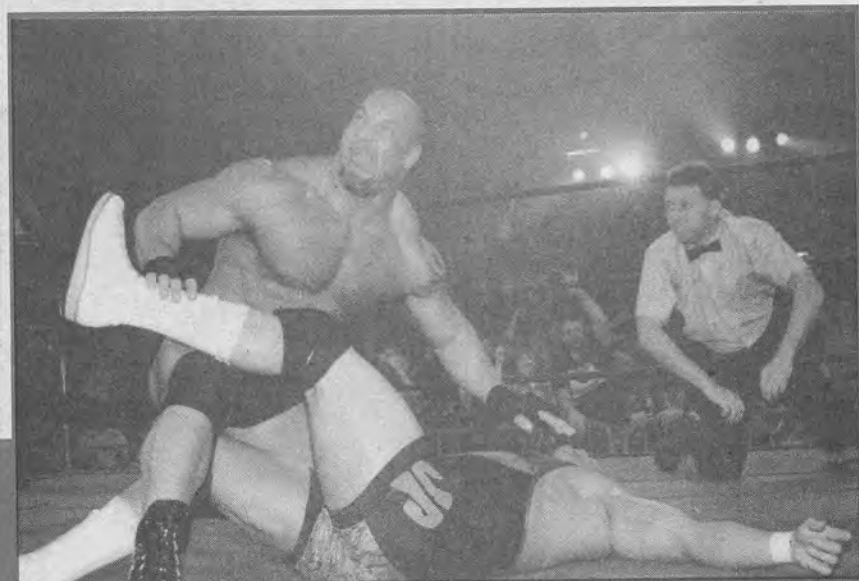
ers could cost us one wink of sleep, let alone dismantle the NWO. Honestly, though, I'm not trying to diss these guys. A guy like Chris Jericho, if he stays on his current path for a few more years, could be invited into the NWO ... someday ... maybe."

Of course, Bischoff conveniently forgot to mention one of the biggest threats to the NWO.

"Goldberg?" he asked, incredulously. "You've got to be kidding me! Hollywood Hogan has destroyed bigger men in his sleep. C'mon, I think somebody needs a

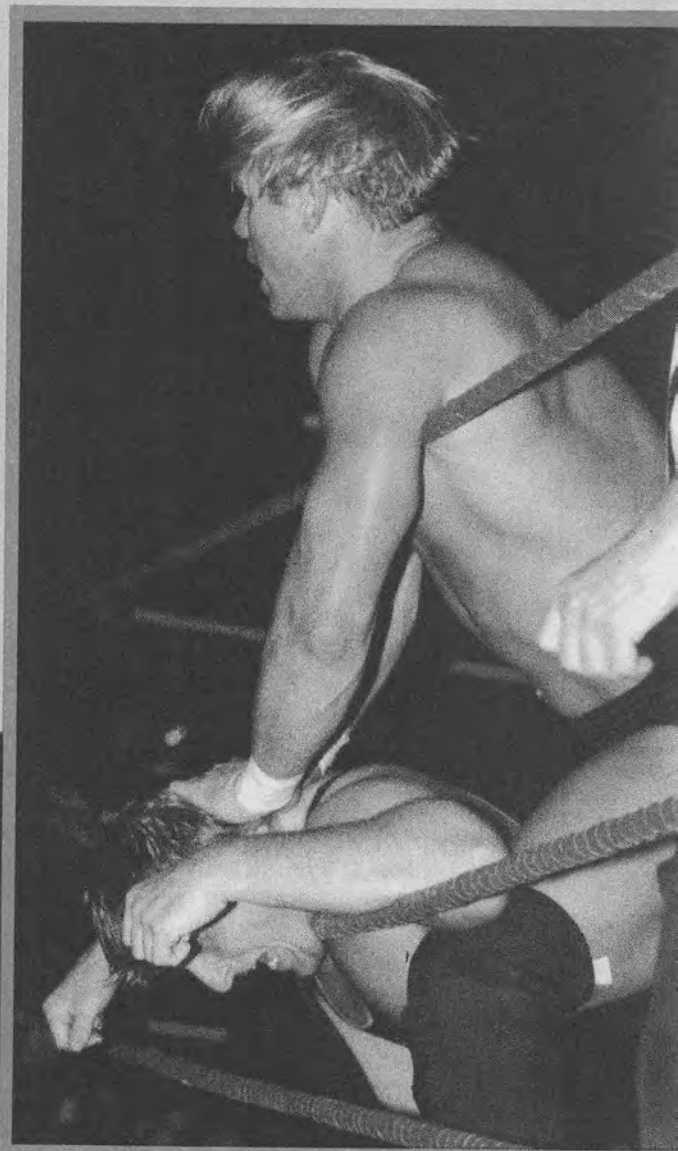
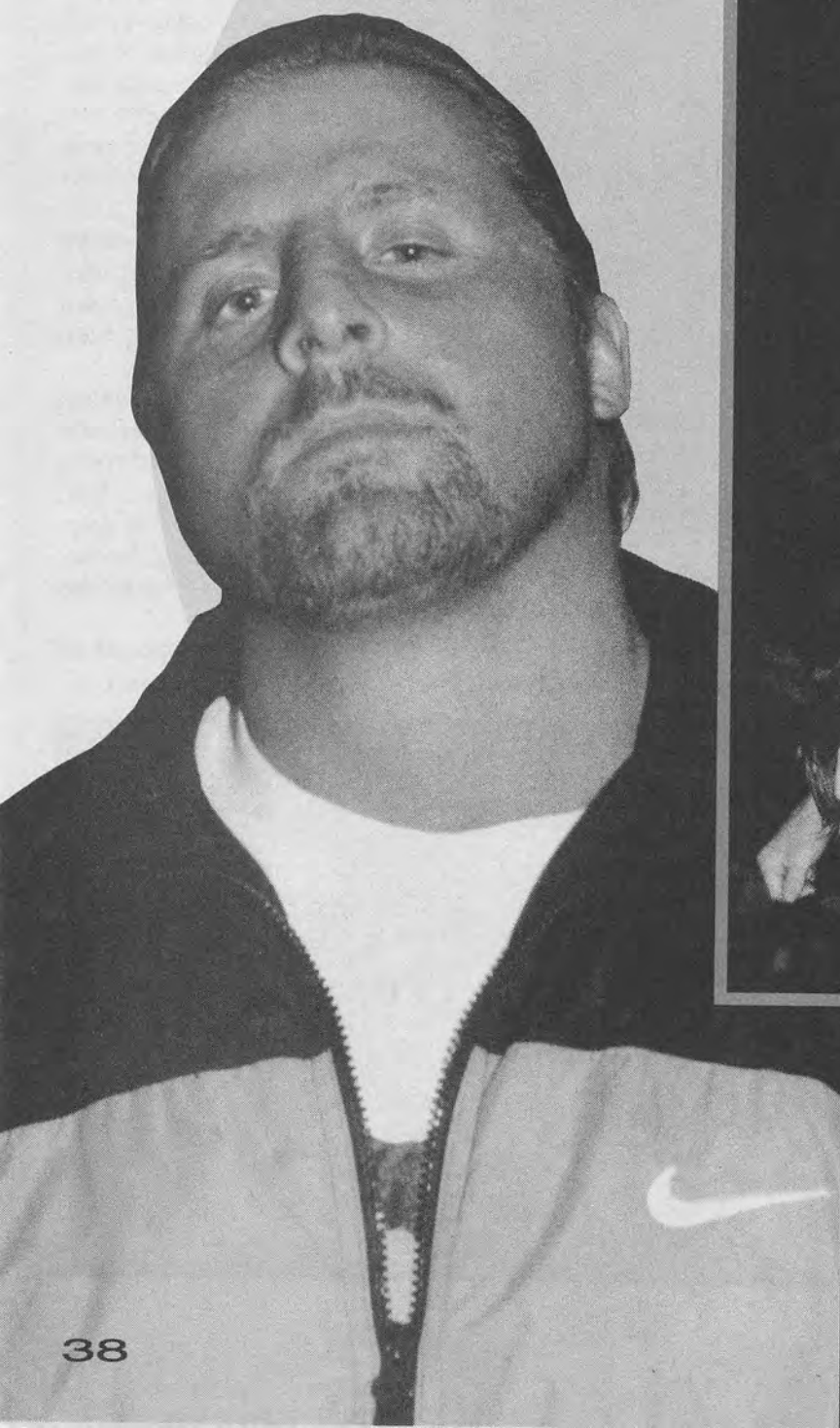
reality pill here!"

One reason why these men aren't considered a serious threat

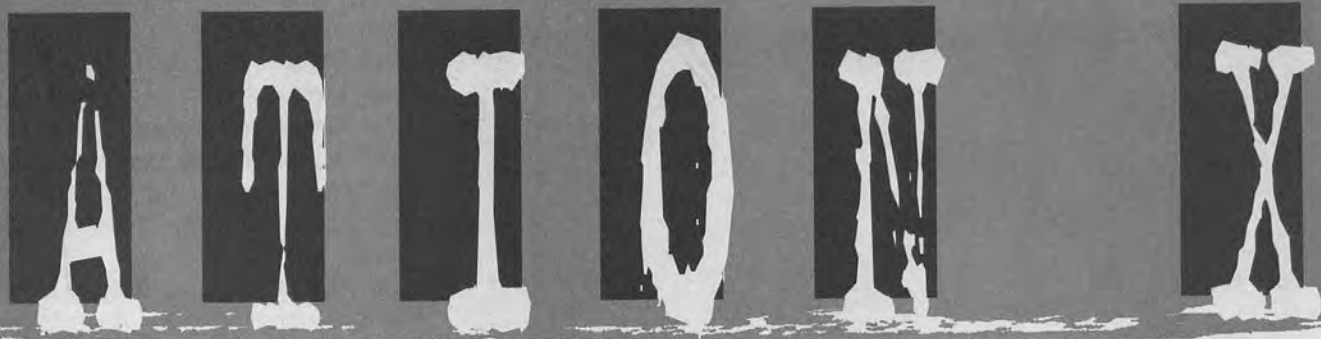


Goldberg pins Jim Powers, but has his eyes set toward Hollywood and a new opponent. Mr. Hogan claims to have no fear of him, but he used to say the same about Sting.

D E A D E N E R



Owen Hart (left) is an excellent wrestler, but his lack of mental focus finds him at a disadvantage to lesser athletes like Billy Gunn (above).



“WE OWN OWEN HART’S MIND ... THE FANS CAN KEEP THE REST OF HIM!”

Even with his older
brother Bret no longer
in the WWF, Owen
Hart still can’t get a
break—or an ounce of
respect. DeGeneration
X knows why

By Bryan Ethier

GO FIGURE. BRET HART, Owen Hart’s perpetual pain in the posterior, leaves the WWF for WCW, and *still* Owen Hart sits at about the fifth level down in the WWF hierarchy.

Shawn Michaels injures his back, yet DeGeneration X quickly and effortlessly rebuilds its forces by adding X-Pac (formerly known in the NWO as Syxx) and The New Age Outlaws.

Can Owen ever catch a break?

When big brother Bret left for green-backer pastures, Owen appeared mentally and physically ready to take his place among the WWF’s elite. As it turned out, he was angry enough, but not quite focused enough to take the Hart name to a loftier status in the annals of a sport the family has

dominated for years.

So what went wrong, and why is Owen scowling with frustration?

“We own Owen Hart’s mind,” bragged Hunter Hearst Helmsley. “The fans can keep the rest of him! But I guess they don’t even want him now.”

Odd as the verbose “Triple-H” may sound, his analysis is on the mark. Owen may be more determined than he has been in years; he also is in excellent physical condition. But Hart’s inability to focus on winning a title is slowly eroding his self-esteem—and diminishing his value in the WWF.

“Who is Owen Hart right now, and how does he figure in the future of the federation?” mused WWF commentator Jim Ross. “Good question. I don’t think he knows the answer. I think he’s looking very hard for it.”



If Hart (again being beaten by Gunn) could shake his obsession with DeGeneration X, he might be able to get his career back on track. Befriending The Nation of Domination did not appear to be the right move for him.

Such a sad commentary on a man who once had such a bright future. Yes, Owen Hart still wrestles and wrestles well; in fact, he performed well in both his WrestleMania XIV and his Unforgiven bouts with Helmsley, only to be done in by Chyna's chicanery both times. A victory in either match would have garnered Hart the European belt for the second time; instead, it was "Triple-H" laughing all the way back to the dressing room.

The WrestleMania match underscored Hart's inability to overcome DX's bag of tricks. Even though Chyna was handcuffed to WWF

Commissioner Sgt. Slaughter, who stood at ringside, she still managed to interfere and rob Hart of a desperately needed win.

"At some point, you would think Owen would get the hint and respond with some protection or an alternate game plan," said Marc Mero. "Maybe he needs a bodyguard during these matches with DeGeneration X. Maybe he needs a manager. Maybe he just needs to keep his nose clean."

Although Hart had sought advice from Sunny and The Legion of Doom after WrestleMania, he had been a loner most of his career, shrugging off bosses such as Jim

Cornette when they came too close for comfort. He has always been a private man away from the ring. Some have called him "cerebral," although that seems a misnomer, considering his often imprudent behavior between the ropes.

What motivates Owen is a deep-seeded need to prove himself. For years, he struggled to show brother Bret that he was able to make it in the WWF. Now, against a nemesis who knows his style inside and out, Hart will not back down until he proves to himself and the other wrestlers that he is superior to Helmsley. During the last week of April, he tried a new tactic. He betrayed Ken Shamrock, his regular tag team partner, and formed an alliance with The Nation of Domination.

Unfortunately for Hart, Helmsley recognizes how desperate Hart is and has continued to exploit it to his own advantage.

"Doesn't this pompous jerk know he can't beat 'Triple-H'?" asked Helmsley. "It's just a simple matter of superiority; I am superior to him. He can't beat me, and he doesn't know what to do about it. He'll keep coming back again and again like a little brat who wants a piece of candy. He won't stop until he gets what he wants. But I have what he wants—a title. And I won't give it up. And you can bet I will *never* let that squirming worm get any other title, either. He can join the Nation, the DOA, Los Boricuas, and whatever other group he wants. It won't make any difference at all."

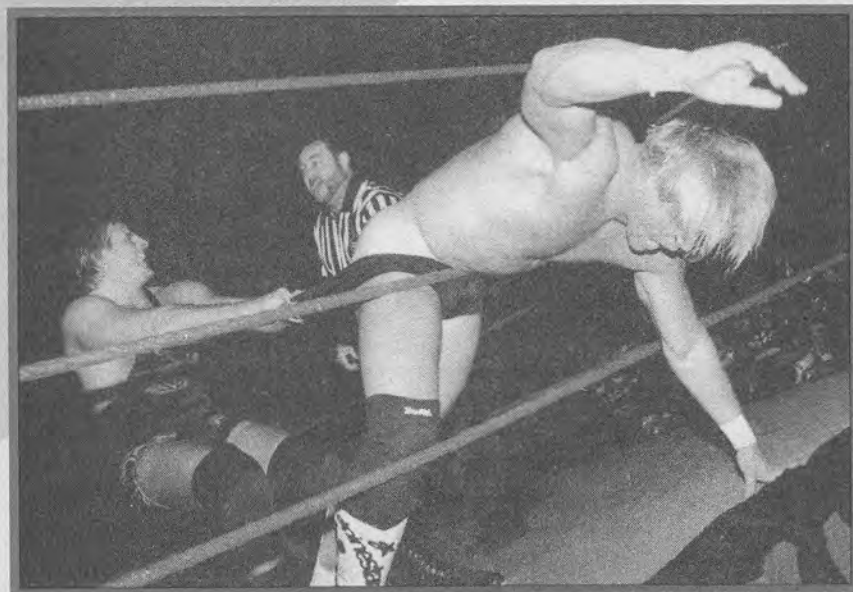
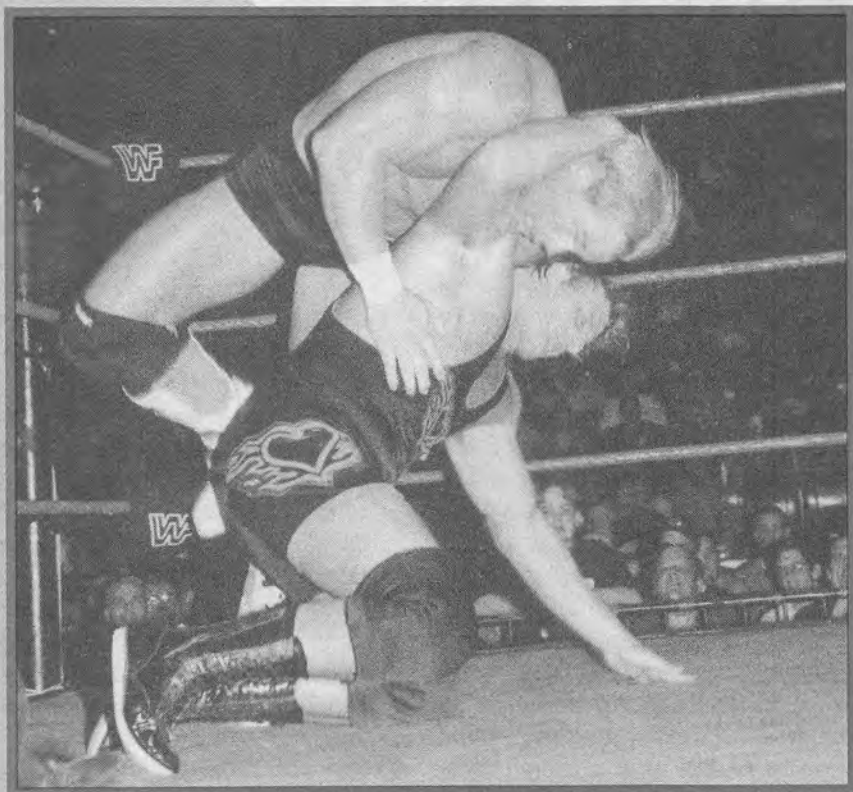
Frightening words that punctuate the control "Triple-H" truly has over Hart. Consider that any time Hart even attempted to dethrone Intercontinental champion Rocky Maivia, DeGeneration X stood in his way, distracted him, then went about dismantling him both mentally and physically. Now that he has befriended Maivia, he can forget about even challenging for that belt.

"Owen Hart just doesn't know what he's doing—it's that simple," said DX member X-Pac. "I think he needs a long vacation. It's really sad, but who cares about him anyway?"

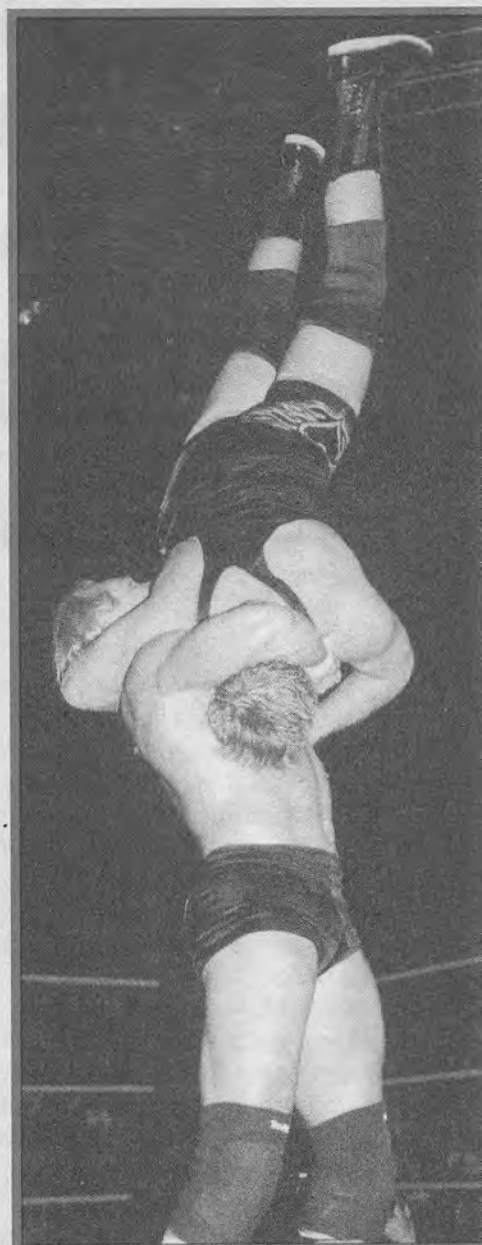
X-Pac's conclusions raise another interesting question: Why has Hart formed an alliance with the NOD?

"Because he wasn't getting the respect he deserved," said Maivia. "It's the same reason 'The Rock' joined: to get some respect. He's a fine man."

The Nation of Domination, led by the egotistical Maivia, bolstered by Owen Hart. Intriguing, but is it realistic? Judging by Hart's history, such a merger would seem



Battling Gunn (top) and trying to humiliate him (above) is not what Hart ought to be doing; a wrestler this talented should be contending for titles. But bad things always seem to happen to him in title matches.



Hart's lack of career direction is disturbing. He could be among the WWF's elite; instead, he's mired among the ranks of mid-card grapplers. It's understandable that he's frustrated.

unlikely to last.

"No, I don't think it will last," said Billy Gunn. "We don't intend to stop messing with his mind, so give him a few months. He'll try something new, but it won't work. And we'll all get another good laugh at his expense."

There's no doubt that Owen Hart needs direction. But first, he needs to be doused with a bucket of cold water to rouse him from his DX trance. □

HOTSEAT

ROCKY MAIVIA

"THE ROCK' WAS BORN TO LEAD!"

WHAT HAPPENED TO Rocky Maivia? A little more than a year ago, the young sensation had upset Hunter Hearst Helmsley for the WWF Intercontinental title and was following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Rocky Johnson and Peter Maivia. He was a humble sportsman with a sense of fair play.

Today, Maivia is an opportunist, a braggart, and a bully ... all qualities necessary to lead The Nation of Domination. Members of the NOD decided that Maivia was much more proficient than Faarooq, and helped him depose their former leader. Kama Mustafa, D-Lo Brown, and Mark Henry seem reinvigorated under Maivia's guidance. In return, they want to keep the Intercontinental belt around Maivia's waist and, by extension, power in the NOD's camp.

In terms of longevity and dominance, Maivia's second reign has been far more successful than his first. It's just too bad that arrogance and ruthlessness are also part of the package. As Maivia's crimes and betrayals reach new heights, his list of enemies grows longer. Ken Shamrock and Steve Blackman are determined to win his title. Faarooq, labeled an "Uncle Tom" by Maivia, is devoting

all his energy to the elimination of "The Rock."

Maivia must ponder several issues in the months ahead. Can his collection of thugs hold off the onslaught of several world-class competitors? How can the Nation dominate the WWF without knocking heads with DeGeneration X? Will "The Rock" challenge WWF World champ Steve Austin? Senior Writer Harry Burkett, anxious to find out the answers to these intriguing questions, interviewed Maivia after a recent **Raw Is War** in Hampton, Virginia.

"Everybody was asking the same question: Why is 'The Rock,' the Intercontinental champion, taking a backseat to someone as pitiful as Faarooq?"

Q: I'm glad you took time to speak with me, Rocky. I suppose congratulations are in order as you hit your five-month anniversary as Intercontinental champion.

A: First of all, you can address me as "Mr. Rock." And yes, you may congratulate me on

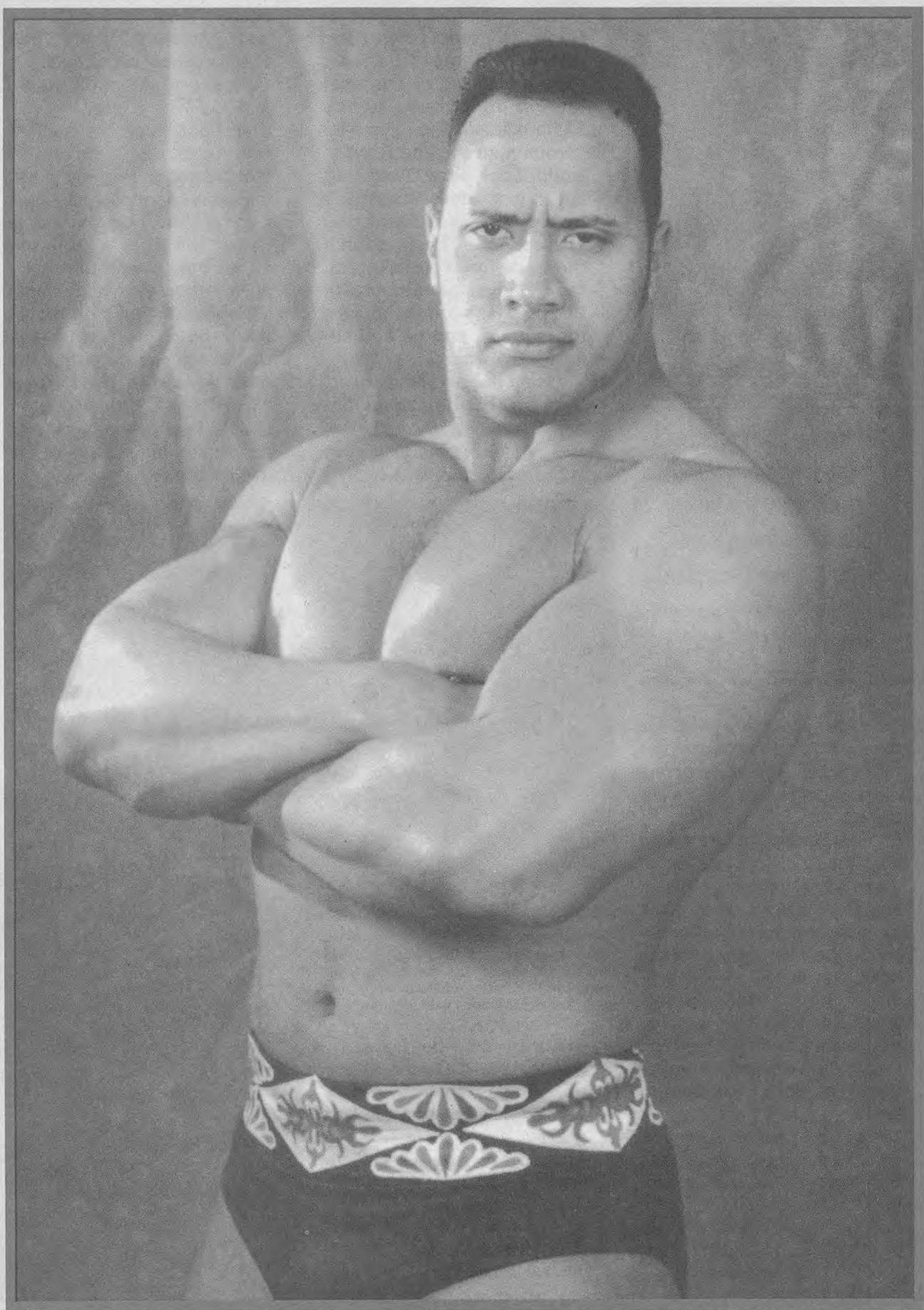
being the best damn Intercontinental champion there's ever been.

Q: To be accurate, "Mr. Rock," I'm not sure if you are considered the **best** I-C champ ever by a lot of people. There's a very long list of great champions who may take exception to that.

A: Your observations are irrelevant. You're here to find out "The Rock's" opinions. "The Rock" is not here to listen to yours.

Q: Correct. All right, let's discuss the most controversial aspect of your career. For months, it seemed as if The Nation of Domination was disintegrating before our eyes. How did you and Faarooq remain teammates for as long as you did?

A: I'm sure it was very distressing for all the Nation's followers around the world. To watch Faarooq lumber around the ring, unable to carry out the simplest tasks, was just plain sad. Everybody was asking the same question: Why is "The Rock," the Intercontinental champion, taking a backseat to someone as pitiful as Faarooq? Fortunately, "The Rock" was able to take his rightful place as ruler of the Nation.





"Little Kenny Shamrock isn't the most dangerous man in 'The Rock's' world.

Look what Owen Hart did to him. Steve Blackman? He can take his kickboxing to Thailand for all I care!"

Q: *How can you make all these horrible comments about a man who inspired you to become a member of the Nation in the first place?*

A: Faarooq didn't inspire me at all. "The Rock" just looked at those guys like Kama Mustafa and D-Lo Brown. They were going to swim in mediocrity as long as Faarooq was at the helm. But there I was, a deliciously ripped "Rock," a man who could help them become the greatest stars in the WWF. I was, and am, their inspiration. "The Rock" was born to lead!

Q: *Surely, you must be concerned with Faarooq's alliance with Ken Shamrock and Steve Blackman.*

A: Don't make me laugh! Wait a minute, "The Rock's" just got to let it out. *(Laughs)* Man, you can't be serious.

Q: *I'm very serious.*

A: Listen, Shamrock did everything he could to win the Intercontinental title from "The Rock." He couldn't get the job done. Little Kenny Shamrock isn't the most dangerous man in "The Rock's" world. Look what Owen Hart did to him. Steve Blackman? He can take his kickboxing to Thailand for all I care. Even if those peons were a threat, they'll never get along with Faarooq. He's too dumb, he's too square, and he's absolutely nowhere.

Q: *Tonight, you and Mark Henry went against Ken Shamrock and Owen. Only a couple minutes into the match, Hart tagged in Shamrock, then surprised him*

couldn't resist lending Owen a hand. We consider Mr. Owen Hart a member of our family.

Q: *One more question about Faarooq. Why did you ...*

A: Stop right there. I'm finished talking about Faarooq. I thought you were going to ask me some important questions. I know everybody wants to hear "The Rock's" opinion about the Clinton-Lewinsky affair. I know everybody wants "The Rock's" take on global warming. A dude with the United Nations called me the other day and wanted to know "The Rock's" view on the Middle East peace talks. Ask me something worthy of my intelligence.



Kama doesn't seem to know what to do (above) as Rocky Maivia and Faarooq battle it out, though the war for the leadership of The Nation of Domination has evidently already been won (right).

with a low blow. In an instant, you and the NOD were helping Hart stomp Shamrock senseless. Did you conspire with Hart before the match?

A: Absolutely not. But "The Rock" could sympathize with Owen's situation. He just got sick and damn tired of carrying Shamrock's dead weight. When we saw Shamrock crying for mercy, the Nation





Maivia and Mark Henry are cornerstones of a revitalized NOD which, without Faarooq, is (at least as Maivia tells it) poised to dominate the WWF.

Q: Okay, we'll play it your way. What do you think about the division between the Unionists and Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland? Do you believe that recognizing the political arm of the IRA was a good idea?

A: I'll tell you exactly how "The Rock" feels about that. Uh, just give me time to, uh, give me a second to, um, tell you what, I'll fax you something next week. I have your fax number.

Q: Fine, we'll stick to topics you feel like addressing at this moment. How can your father, Rocky Johnson, approve of your tactics? He was one of the classiest wrestlers ever.

A: "Rock Sr." didn't like the way all those idiots were disrespecting me. He knows wrestling is a lot different today. Playing by the rules doesn't get you anywhere. Yeah, they may have liked chanting "Rocky sucks!" back then, but what are they chanting now?

Q: "Rocky sucks!"

A: You're damn lucky "The Rock's" a patient man. Give me "Future Goals" for \$500, Alex.

Q: Fine. There's no doubt that the NOD's ultimate goal is complete domination of the WWF. Groups like DeGeneration X won't like that idea.

A: Why the hell are you trying to stir the pot?

Q: I'm not trying to "stir the pot." But if you attempt to expand the Nation's influence, DX may resist you.

A: So far, I'm happy to report that the Nation has received nothing but good vibes from DX. If we do have problems, "The Rock" will simply propose an eight-man tag team match to settle the dispute.

Q: Spoken like a true diplomat. Of course, Hunter Hearst Helmsley is the European champion. You defeated him for your first Intercontinental title just last year. Could you beat him again?

A: Since "The Rock" has claimed so many victims, I don't think it's fair to single out "Triple-H."

Q: Wouldn't you consider a unification match with Helmsley? It seems that the I-C belt has diminished in importance since the European title came into existence.

A: That's a lot of trash talk, my man. And "Triple-H" is too much of a role model to deprive him of a title.

Q: I doubt it if you would talk about your former arch-rival, Steve Austin, in those glowing terms. You were very impressive in your matches against him late last year.

A: I was so impressive that he gave up the Intercontinental title without a fight. Everybody says Steve Austin is "the toughest S.O.B. in the WWF." Well, he wasn't so tough against "The Rock," was he?

Q: Did Austin's disregard for the I-C title tarnish its prestige?

A: Absolutely not. Mr. McMahon forced Austin to make a decision: to face me or give up the title. Austin made the right



"I'd be the best damn WWF World champion there ever was.

If Mr. McMahon wants a champ who is handsome, literate, and rock-steady cool, then 'The Rock' is his man."

decision. And the WWF gained an honorable champion whom everyone can admire.

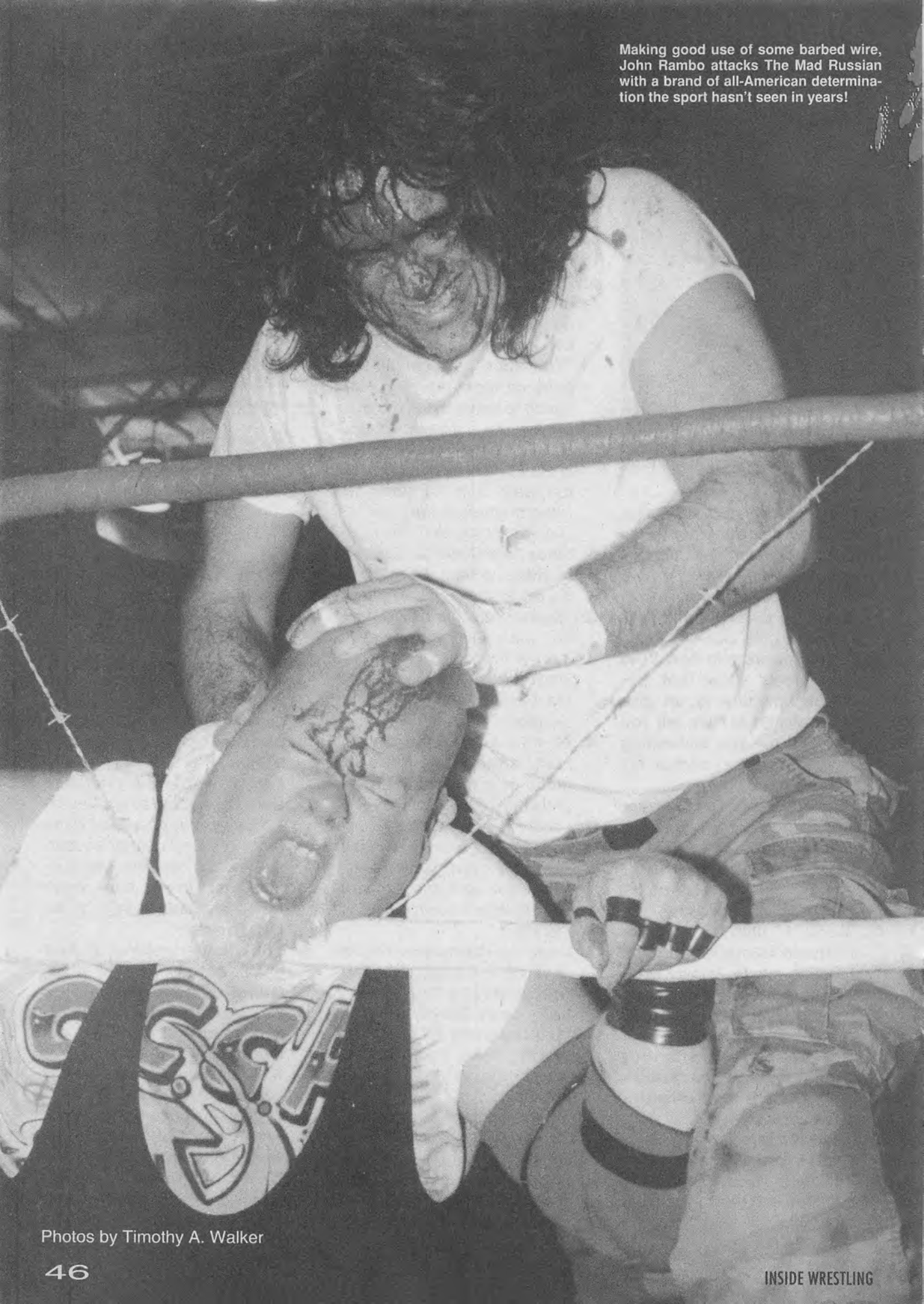
Q: I think your view on those events is debatable. Nevertheless, I suppose you have every reason to consider yourself the top contender to Austin's title. Do you think Vince McMahon would approve of you being champ?

A: You'd better believe it. Just check out my Armani suits, Gucci shoes, and Rolex watches. Then go out in the parking lot and drool over my Ferrari.

Q: It sounds like you are honing your image as we speak.

A: I'd be the best damn WWF World champion there ever was. If Mr. McMahon wants a champ who is handsome, literate, and rock-steady cool, then "The Rock" is his man. □

Making good use of some barbed wire, John Rambo attacks The Mad Russian with a brand of all-American determination the sport hasn't seen in years!



MAD RUSSIAN VS. JOHN RAMBO

Somebody Tell These Guys The Cold War Is Over!

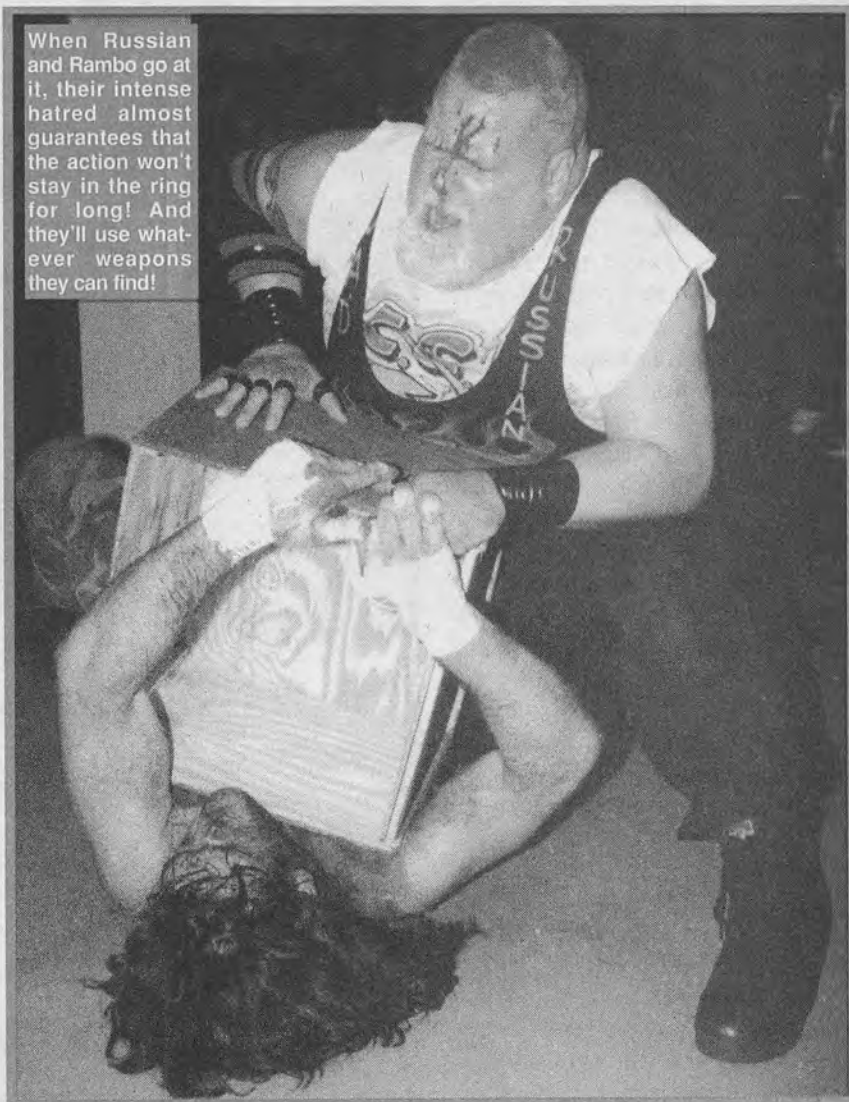
On second thought, why bother? To Mad Russian and Rambo, the Cold War battle between the Soviet Union and the United States is raging as strong as ever. The missiles are ready ... aimed ... and about to fire!

When Russian and Rambo go at it, their intense hatred almost guarantees that the action won't stay in the ring for long! And they'll use whatever weapons they can find!

By Dave Rosenbaum

WHEN IVAN KOLOFF won the WWF World heavy-weight title from Bruno Sammartino in 1971, every wrestling fan in North America knew what had been lost: a small but significant battle in the Cold War between the communist Soviet Union and the capitalist United States.

We cared. Koloff represented the dark side of the globe, the cold Soviet Union, where individuality





Top dollar? If Mad Russian understood capitalism a little better, he might pay top dollar for protection from Rambo's fury!

and human rights were suppressed. When Koloff gloated over his victory, calling us "stupid Americans," we were angry. It didn't matter that Sammartino was from Italy; he was on *our* side.

When The Iron Sheik beat all-American boy Bob Backlund for the WWF title, it hurt. The Iron Sheik, from Teheran, Iran, called us "idiot Americans," said he was stronger than all of us, and claimed that Soviet-backed Iran was superior to the United States. So when Hulk Hogan, another all-American star, beat The Iron Sheik for the belt, we celebrated.

We watched in anger as Nikita Koloff, Ivan's nephew, used every dirty trick in his arsenal to win the U.S. title from Magnum T.A. in 1986. We knew that Nikita was supported financially by the Soviet Union and realized what was at stake: the Soviets vs. the United States, in the ring, one of the few places on Earth where the battle between communism and democracy was fought on physical terms.

But these battles seem as if they took place a lifetime ago, before the Berlin Wall fell and the world celebrated. Sure, there's still communism in the world—plenty of it, in fact, in Cuba and China. The Soviet Union, however, has been broken into several states. Democracy is trying to thrive, and the United States is trying to help.

Russia and the United States are no longer enemies teetering on the brink of full-scale nuclear war. Today, Russians play alongside our Americans and Canadians in the National Hockey League.

The world has changed for almost everyone.

Everyone ... except maybe John Rambo and The Mad Russian.

The Mad Russian walks around carrying an old Soviet flag, the blood-red one with the hammer and sickle in the corner. He talks like one of those old-time Soviet wrestlers—"idiot Americans" is one of his favorite phrases—and never smiles or changes his expression. He snarls. He looks evil. He represents all that was wrong with the world ... 25 years ago.

And John Rambo? He's intense,



The violence exhibited between Russian and Rambo harkens back to a Cold War era that most have forgotten. Not these men, though!

as any man named John Rambo should be. Maybe he's having flashbacks. Maybe he's suffering from the effects of Agent Orange. Maybe he's seen too many Sylvester Stallone movies. Whatever the motivation, he's *into* it. He wants to keep the world safe for democracy and destroy the Soviet threat.

Well, relax, John. The world is safe for democracy. The Soviet threat *is* dead.

Then again, you can never be *too* careful.

"Anytime any man comes within earshot of me and starts talking down this great country of ours, I'm going to react," Rambo said. "This is my warning: Don't burn my flag if you wanna be my friend. Don't start talking to me about communism and not expect to get your butt whipped in return. Yeah, this is serious stuff to me. Some people might say the Soviet threat is dead, but as long as crazies like The Mad Russian are running around, there's always a threat. Besides, you know how things are



"U.S.A.! U.S.A.!" The chant used to be heard whenever an American wrestler battled a Russian grappler. We haven't seen many such feuds recently. Today, though, Rambo hears those chants whenever Mad Russian gains the advantage.

over there now? Mobs, guns, people stealing. Something's not working right, and if we're not careful, Russia will become communist all over again."

Strong words from a man who doesn't read the *New York Times*. Yet this feud, based on mistakes of

the past, has been as heated as any in wrestling. National Wrestling League and MECW arenas have hosted a bloody, violent feud that has no end in sight. A recent bloody barbed-wire match cost both men a few pints.

Rambo, the NWL and MECW heavyweight champion, has won most of the matches, but in one Mad Russian threw Rambo head-first into the steel cage in which they were competing. Rambo got caught in the gap between the ring apron and the cage and was left

vulnerable to Russian's vicious assault. The battle eventually continued outside the cage and all over the Berkley County All-Purpose Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia. The crowd, which oddly enough is into this feud and vehemently anti-Soviet, followed the wrestlers. It looked like an ECW match: The wrestlers used chairs, tables, even boxes that are used for the bingo games held in the All-Purpose Center.

"I showed stupid American pig," Mad Russian declared after the match was ruled a no-contest.

Indeed he did. Rambo was sidelined with back and neck injuries suffered in that grueling match.

But back to the point: this feud. Isn't it a bit ... out of place?

"Hate all Americans," Russian grumbled.

"I don't hate all Russians," Rambo said, "but I hate *this* one. More than I hate anyone else in the world."

The Soviet Union may be dead, but in this corner of the professional wrestling world, U.S.A.-Russia relations are as bitter as they've ever been.

And the fans are loving it. □



Even though Russian and Rambo have taken their war to the cage, the hatred between the two men is not about to end anytime soon.

The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ...
One On One

IT WAS A clash that seemed fated in the stars. On that hot July 1996 evening in Daytona Beach, Florida, when Hulk Hogan bucked years of preaching fair play to join Scott Hall and Kevin Nash in the NWO, many felt it would only be a matter of time before the inevitable meltdown occurred.

Kevin Nash and Hollywood Hogan are two massive men with egos to match their size.

Hogan has spent a good portion of his career with a world title belt wrapped around his waist. For Nash, it has been nearly three years since his last reign as a singles champion as Diesel in the WWF.

Nash knows all too well that three years is a long time to not be a world champion.

Last year it was evident that a split was developing in the NWO as Nash, Hall, and Syxx formed a subgroup they called The Wolfpac. Though they remained active members of the NWO, The Wolfpac went their way while Hogan went his. But once Hogan dropped the WCW World title to Sting, tensions between The Wolfpac and Hogan flared.

Despite Eric Bischoff's claims to the contrary, it was obvious all was **not** well in the NWO. That fact became even more evident at Spring Stampede, when Hogan clobbered Nash with a baseball bat after the two defeated Roddy Piper and The Giant. The next night on Nitro, Nash retaliated with a devastating power bomb on Hogan.

Now it seems to only be a matter of time before these two superstars take their animosity to the next level. However, before that happened, Hogan asked *INSIDE WRESTLING* for the opportunity to talk things over with Nash in front of the world ... "One On One."

ONE O



"I was winning world titles when you were looking for work as a second-rate bouncer at a third-rate bar. Don't ever forget that, my man!"
—Hollywood Hogan

KEVIN NASH: It seems to be your lucky day, big man. Here I am, on the phone just as your royal Hulk-ness instructed. Now talk to me, chief, 'cuz "Big Sexy" doesn't have all day, if you know what I mean.

HOLLYWOOD HOGAN: Settle down a minute there, big man. There's been a lot of things cluttering the air with us for the past couple of months. Now, you know the NWO's got a lot of enemies in WCW who are going to try to bring us down, to turn us against one another. That's why I wanted to talk to you man-to-man, in front of the public, but without other people trying to twist our words around and stir up the pot.

KN: Oh, and I guess it was all those *other people* who stirred things up when you blindsided me with a baseball bat, huh? Hogan, let's cut the bull and shoot straight from the hip here, because you're not going to win me over by trying to snow me.

HH: Fine, let's get this off on the right foot. First things first. You better think things over and know your role. I was Hollywood Hogan, the ultimate icon in this business, when you were nothing. Yeah, you can talk a mean interview and you can win over some fans. Big

N ONE



**"Bischoff's filling your head with so much trash you don't know up from down anymore. You're not the leader of anything now."
—Kevin Nash**

deal. I was winning world titles when you were looking for work as a second-rate bouncer at a third-rate bar. Don't ever forget that, my man! You better drop this attitude and remember how you got to where you are today, brother. Understood?

KN: Hey, even up on that high horse, you're still coming up short next to "Big Sexy," Hollywood. How come for a guy who's won all these belts, me and Scotty [Hall] had to come out and bail your hide out of the fire for the past year? Hell, you had me wearing Sting masks and being dropped out of the rafters. I did my job, big boy. You dropped the ball against Sting and then you violated your own rules when you challenged Randy Savage, a fellow member of the NWO, for the belt. We always said that as long as the gold was in the NWO family, everything was cool.

HH: You want to talk about doing your job? Who paid the all those fines you got for using the power bomb every week? Week after week, Hollywood was shelling out 50 grand. How did that help the NWO, Nash? When you kept that garbage up, I realized what a big baby you really were.

KN: If I'm such a big baby, pal, then why are we on the phone with each other at all? Why aren't we in the ring settling this up like real men? Or is this another example of the great Hollywood stalling from taking on the top contenders?

HH: We're on the phone because the boss, Mr. Bischoff, asked me to talk to you.

KN: And we all know that what "Easy E" wants, "Easy E" gets. Not anymore, pal. Not anymore. Kevin Nash has never been a guy who's real good at dealing with authority. Ever since kindergarten, the rap on me has been "Does not play well with others." You and "Easy E" are trying to pull my strings, but, boys, I got news for you. When you take "Big Sexy The Giant Killer," you get no strings attached.

HH: Remember this, Nash: The NWO was my baby. It was my bag all along. You and Hall were just along for the ride. Now, we've been a success, the most successful organization in all of wrestling. And you've got to admit your career has kind of picked up since you hooked up with Hollywood, the icon. You want to throw that away, maybe Mr. Bischoff will keep you on and let you sweep up the arenas at the end of the night. Other than that, you better tread lightly, because the NWO stands behind Hollywood. You and Savage are in the minority. Think things through.

KN: You know anything about wolves, Hogan? Wolves travel in packs. They hunt together, they run together. Well, sometimes one of the wolves turns on another one of his pack. Then the rest of that pack sends that renegade wolf a message and sends it packing. The way I see it, you're the wolf who stole from a member of the pack. You think the pack's gonna back you? Bischoff's filling your head with so much trash you don't know up from down anymore. You're not the leader of anything now.

HH: I know that I'm sitting here holding the NWO World title belt in my hands while you're sitting at home with a cup of coffee and wondering who you can trust.

KN: You've become a man without a home. Enjoy that belt while you can, Hogan. You're going to forget what it looked like soon enough. And if you've ever taken anything I've said seriously, this had better be it. Your time has come.

HH: You know, brother, I seem to remember other people saying the same thing. I remember Lex Luger, I remember Sting, I remember Ric Flair, I remember Roddy Piper. They all squawked the squawk, but Hollywood's still on top. I said it before and I'll say it again. Think things through, "Big Sexy." Know your place and do your job. This is your career that's on the line here.

KN: Wolves know no fear, Hogan. Remember, no strings attached. □

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Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)



Don Montoya, who's part of a group called the East Coast Invasion, takes a seat on Skull Ganz' back. Stacey MacMackin would like to see Montoya get his shot in either WCW or the WWF.

the number-one contenders to the title. They wrestle mainly in singles matches!

Meanwhile, in the WWF, the World tag team champs are The New Age Outlaws, a great, young team that defends the belts on a regular basis. There is great competition for title shots, with LOD 2000, The Headbangers, The Quebecers, The New Midnight Express, and Terry Funk and 2 Cold

Scorpio battling.

the world of independent wrestling, there is the ECI and then there's "not exactly."

STACEY L. MacMACKIN
Naperville, IL

Scorpio battling.

Right now, there is no question that the top federation for tag team wrestling is the WWF.

JOSEPH GALLO
Glendale, NY ☐

TAG TEAM TALK

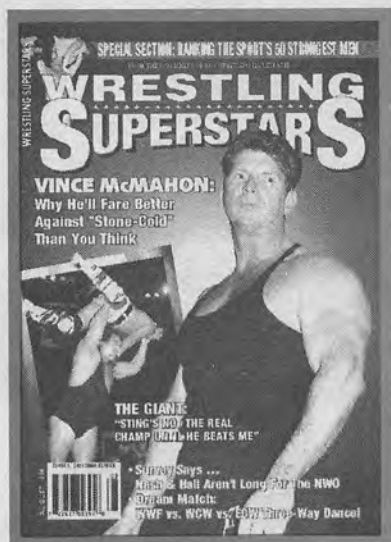
Not long ago, many people were saying that tag team wrestling was dying in the WWF and that all the good teams were in WCW. I totally disagree now. The WCW tag team champions are Scott Hall and Kevin Nash. They hardly ever team anymore, and therefore the belts are never defended. The Steiners have split up, and since Booker T became TV champion, Harlem Heat never team anymore. This all makes the WCW tag team division very weak. In the June 1998 edition of INSIDE WRESTLING, Buff Bagwell and Scott Norton were listed as

The Headbangers lift The Quebecers' Jacques Rougeau high into the air. Reader Joseph Gallo is glad to see them and so many other quality tag teams in the WWF today.



This Month In...

WRESTLING SUPERSTARS



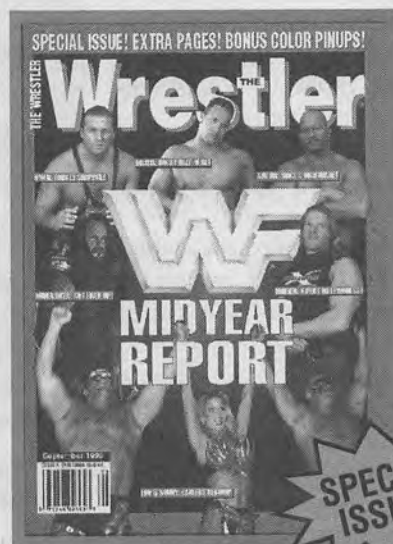
A lot of people didn't think **STEVE AUSTIN** would beat **SHAWN MICHAELS** for the WWF World title at WrestleMania XIV, but he did so convincingly. The toughest fight of "Stone-Cold's" life might be still to come.

We'll let you know why the next Austin-VINCE McMAHON match won't be as one-sided as you'd think ... Who is the strongest man in wrestling? We'll not only tell you that—we'll tell you who the 50 strongest are ... **SCOTT HALL** and **KEVIN NASH** may have been the founders of the NWO, but we have reason to believe that their days in that powerful organization are numbered

All this—and much more—
in the August 1998 issue of
Wrestling Superstars

NOW ON SALE!

Wrestler^{THE}



**SPECIAL
ISSUE!**

STEVE AUSTIN took over as the number-one star in the federation, **DeGENERATION X** got as lewd as it wanted to be, **SABLE** and **SUNNY** again proved there's more to them than their pretty faces and gorgeous bodies, and even **MIKE TYSON** stopped by for a while. We'll review the good, the bad, and everything in between in our WWF Midyear Report ... **KEVIN NASH** and **HOLLYWOOD HOGAN** are on the verge of a full-scale war. We'll tell you the real story as to why these two never "Kliquesd" ... Get ready: A **BILL GOLDBERG-GIANT** match might be coming very soon to an arena near you!

All this—and much more—
in the September 1998 issue of
The Wrestler

NOW ON SALE!

On The Road

(Continued from page 10)

opening faceoff.

"Hey, Lindros!" Jericho yelled at the Philadelphia captain. "You're a pansy!"

The insults didn't stop there. In fact, Jericho didn't shut up for the next 20 minutes, much to my chagrin and the chagrin of the woman sitting in front of us, who was with her son, a boy of about 12.

A 12-year-old, again to my chagrin, who knew the identity of my companion.

"Hey, Mom," I heard him whispering during the first period. "I think I know that guy. He's that wrestler, Chris Jericho."

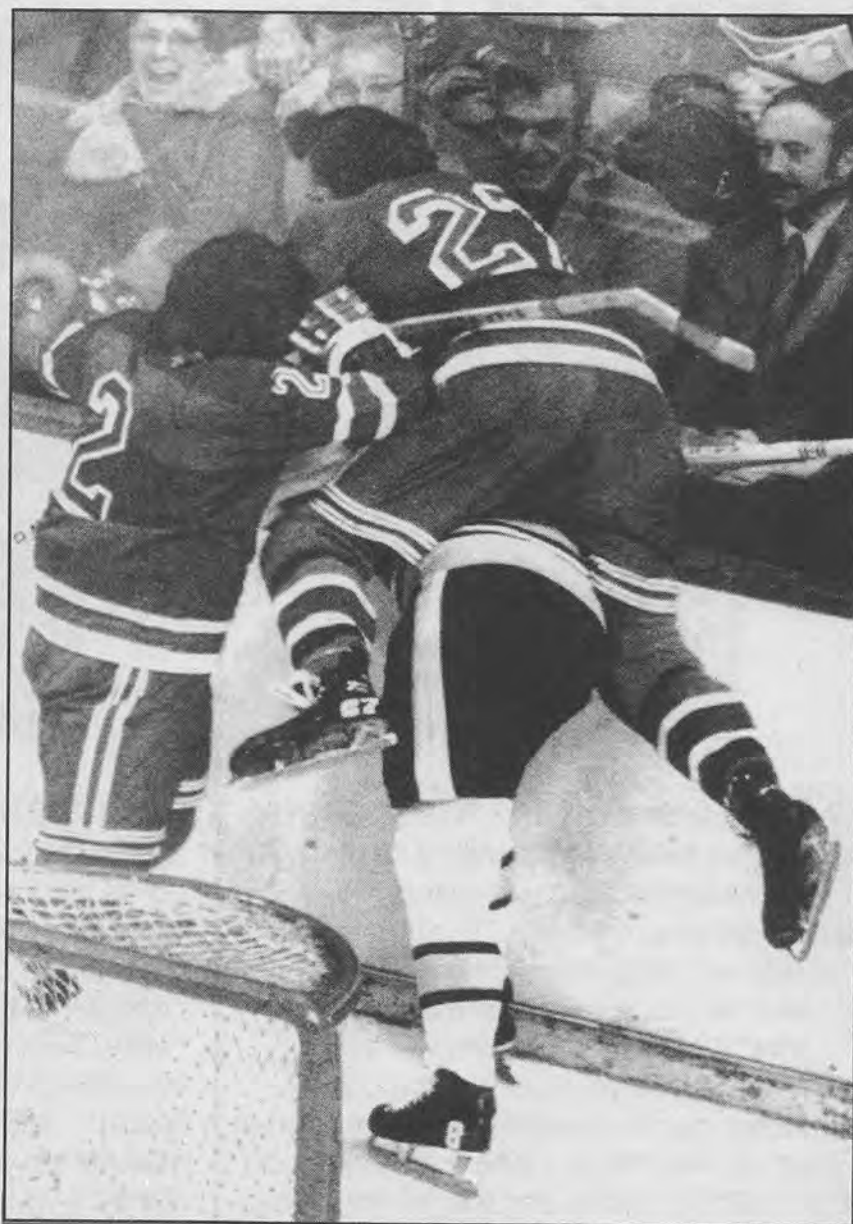
Uh-oh. By this time, Chris was so into the game that he didn't notice anybody around him, even the drunk guy to his right who was wearing the Lindros jersey and came close, by my count four or five times, to dumping a beer over Jericho's head. You see, Chris Jericho isn't a very big guy, and he doesn't look very imposing in street clothes. In fact, I could have sworn the drunk guy in the Lindros jersey told his companion—a very disgruntled middle-aged woman—that he was going to "kick the crap out of the blond-haired ballerina sitting next to me."

That would have been Jericho.

By the end of the second period, the Sabres had a 2-0 lead, and Jericho was in a great mood. Just about every other fan in the building was in mourning, but Jericho was taunting and screaming. Then the 12-year-old turned around and said, "Aren't you Chris Jericho?" and Jericho said, "Yeah. Why? Are you a 'Jerichoholic'?"

"No," the kid said.

In the third period, the Flyers scored two quick goals to tie the game, 2-2, and now Jericho was being taunted by a few of the fans around us. He didn't take it well.



Ted Irvine (wearing number 27) was anything but a loser. He was an excellent role player for the New York Rangers in the early-'70s, who was not at all hesitant about throwing his weight around or engaging in a fight.

My greatest fear was that he'd do something he might later regret, but he didn't. Instead, he kept quiet, which was a refreshing change. Then the Sabres scored to take a 3-2 lead, the fans started booing, and Jericho turned to me and said, "See, the fans have always been this way. They're fair-

weather fans. Not like the loyal 'Jerichoholics.'"

Not at all. The Sabres held on to win, 3-2, and when Jericho yelled out, "This one's for you, Dad!" I wasn't sure what he meant.

"They reminded me of that guy in Fargo," Jericho said to me as we exited. □

Photo by Bruce Bennett Studios

Behind The Door

(Continued from page 12)

Of course, that can't last long. WCW has never been a silent combatant, and that won't change now. So let's try to guess the next steps in this intriguing war:

1. DeGeneration X pulls another similar stunt.

2. This time, WCW wrestlers confront the WWF wrestlers outside the building.

3. A fight breaks out.

4. Promoters from WCW and the WWF realize that it's time to settle their differences in the ring. A night of WCW vs. WWF matches is signed.

There are obstacles to this ever happening, most importantly Vince McMahon's stated dislike for WCW owner Ted Turner, and Turner and Bischoff's dislike for McMahon. WCW and the WWF aren't merely competitors; they're

rivals who hate each other. Getting them into bed with each other, even to settle a score, won't be an easy task.

Fortunately, the fans have a wild card in this situation: The wrestlers call the shots. If members of DeGeneration X want to confront the NWO, who's going to stop them?

Question: Does either federation have the guts to put its reputation on the line in a situation in which there'll be no turning back? If the WWF gets its butt whipped by WCW, it'll have to live with the humiliation for a long time.

This isn't American League vs. National League in baseball or NFC vs. AFC in football. The NFC and AFC are partners in the football business. The WWF and WCW have never been partners in

anything.

Steve Austin vs. Hollywood Hogan? Would love to see it.

DeGeneration X in the same ring with the NWO? Tremendous.

Bret Hart back in the same arena with his good buddy Vince McMahon. Sounds like fun.

Am I dreaming? Maybe. It's hard to tell. The truth is, the WWF and WCW have never been closer to battle. Hostility toward each other has peaked. There have been words. There have been TV ratings. But there haven't been matches.

Wrestling fans know not to even demand such a thing, realizing it'll probably never happen. But if it does, it'll happen soon. Real soon. Now or never. I'm betting on now. ☐

Are these two men being "held hostage" by WCW? DX thinks so. They'd like to have Kevin Nash and Scott Hall back in the WWF with them. They've taken some extreme measures to get their point across.



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The Insider

(Continued from page 14)



Even when Vince is walking to the ring with henchman Jerry Brisco, you can see that he is brimming with confidence. He's enjoying his confrontations with Austin and others in the WWF. And believe me, he will win his little war with "Stone-Cold."

I've heard it said that Vince's newfound attitude may be the downfall of the WWF. But look at the numbers. Since Vince decided to walk the less-than-primrose path of wrestling administration, his Monday night ratings have been great. After months of being the punching bag for WCW's *Nitro*, the new Vince seems to be a cure-all for the ills of *Raw*. The WWF is catching up in the Monday night war with a black-hatted

commander-in-chief leading the troops.

What brought Vince to this point? Was it the successful insurgence of WCW into the wrestling wars? Was it the influence of the upstart ECW that forced him to alter his programming? Was it the bad publicity from Bret Hart's defection? Was it simply a man like Steve Austin winning the coveted belt that pushed Vinnie Mac over the edge?

As proponents of chaos, we don't need to try to figure out why. All that matters is that this is the most significant turn to rulebreaking in the history of professional wrestling. Vince was more than a bastion for good and fair play; he enforced those rules. Now the ballgame is altogether different. Heck, Vince owns the ball and if he doesn't like what he sees, he can just take it home. Austin can rant and rave all he wants. He is fighting a battle that he cannot win. All WWF fan favorites should be on notice.

This is more than a hatred for Austin that fans the flame of Vince's nefarious attitude. He has tried to abide by the wishes of the fans, but now, to paraphrase Popeye, "It's all he can stand, and he can't stand no more." This is the Vince that has been waiting to come out after all these years. Like a homely caterpillar transforming into a colorful butterfly, Vince has been reborn. The WWF is no longer a democracy. It is a monarchy. Long live King Vince! May he rule with a fist that crashes hard on Steve Austin and others of his ilk.

I know what you're thinking. You question the legacy that Vince is leaving behind. But it is a legacy that might well lead him to winning this war with WCW once and for all. The end would certainly justify the means.

What would Dan Shocket say? What would Jess (Vince's grandfather) or Vince McMahon Sr. say? I know what I'm saying. I like what I see, and I hope to see more. Will Vince keep it up? Will he resist the urge to rejoin the side of good? Tune in next month. Same Vince time. Same Vince channel for another edition of *Lifestyles Of The Rich And Villainous*. □

On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)



"Triple-H" can't resist taking a shot at Ken Shamrock while Chyna restrains him. If it looks like Hunter has been having more fun than ever in the ring in recent months, it's because he's finally feeling comfortable.

someone else. It took me awhile to realize it because things were going well, but I was still letting myself get held back.

"WrestleMania XIV was supposed to be the greatest day of all for DX," he continued. "Everything we planned for was geared toward that day. Signing Tyson was a huge coup that gave us a little additional strength. I didn't think it was the right move, but Shawn was the leader, so I didn't complain too much. I guess that was a mistake. He should have seen it coming. Instead we got caught with our pants down. That won't happen again. I'm gonna see to that."

Helmsley told me he did not sleep the night of WrestleMania XIV. He held on to his European title at that event, but Michaels lost the World belt in a cloud of betrayal by their so-called ally, Tyson.

Instead of slumber, "Triple-H" tossed and turned and plotted the next step for DeGeneration X in his head.

"I knew that it was finally time for me to stop listening and start talking," he said. "I called X-Pac and The New Age Outlaws and they listened to *me*. I felt like a leader. I felt like I had control. I felt that after all these years, I had finally arrived."

As I listened to the words come out of his mouth, I could not help but wonder if the man I saw sitting across from me was the same man who acted in such a rude and immature manner on television. So I asked him about the dichotomy.

Helmsley paused and grinned, "You have to understand something about me and DX," he said. "We're fighting a war, and we want to win by any means possible. That's means both verbal and

physical. And we will win. We provide shock value to keep our enemies off-guard. That's what makes us strong, and that's what will give us strength for future wars."

Which leads me to believe that DX is currently stronger and more durable than its WCW counterpart, the New World Order. When Hollywood Hogan had problems with Randy Savage and Kevin Nash, the group splintered into two factions that are now at war with each other. The saga is being played out week after week.

DX is a tad more adept at problem-solving. Rick Rude bolted. Little was said. Mike Tyson betrayed DX. The matter was swept under the carpet. Shawn Michaels was removed as leader, while

Hunter quietly assumed the mantle. He also made the organization stronger. No one will ever long for the original DX. The current version is frighteningly power and effective. It boasts a solid European champ, a vastly improved tag team that happens to hold the federation gold, and a likely future light heavyweight champion. No, not Chyna, but I think she could beat a few of the men in the WWF.

As Helmsley's flight was called, he politely excused himself from the table. No crotch-chopping or foul language. We said our good-byes, and he noticed my tape recorder was still running. With an evil, DX-style smirk, he said, "Do you want something juicy that will melt your tape recorder?"

I politely refused. It was a glimpse of the Hunter that you all know and loathe. □

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March 1992: Who's Winning The Hogan-Flair Wars? Also: Steiners, Survivor Series, Enforcers-Rhodes & Steamboat, Johnny B. Badd.

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Bam Bam Bigelow, John Studd, Bubba-Sling.

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November 1995: One Defense In Four Months?! Strip Hulk Hogan Of The Title—Now! Also: Alex Wright, Tanaka, King of Ring, Chris Benoit, Backlund-Cinton.

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September 1997: The NWO's Anniversary Report. Plus: Lex Luger, Shawn-Bret, Terry Funk, Rob Van Dam, Ken Shamrock.

October 1997 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Plus: LOD-PG-13, Rob Van Dam, Flair & Horsemen, Ken Shamrock, McMichael-White, Madd & Mama Maxxine.

November 1997: WWF War Zone: Interfederation Battles Rock The Sport! Plus: Ahmed Johnson, Curt Hennig, Nueva World Order, Chris Candido, Dan Severn.

December 1997: Losing Is Bull! Has Dennis Rodman Had It With Hulk Hogan? Plus: Steve Austin, Jarrett & Debra, Harts, Funk-Francine, Chris Jericho.

Holiday 1997 (Special Issue): The Steiners' Million-Dollar Gamble! Plus: 1998 calendar, Alex Wright, The Patriot, Sgt. Slaughter, Turnbuckle Turkey Awards.

January 1998: Sexy Seasons Greetings From Sable: Our Holiday Wish For The Stars. Plus: Bret Hart, Rey Misterio Jr., Steve Austin, WCW Executive Committee, Fritz Von Erich.

February 1998: Wrestling's Top Stars: What's Ahead For 1998. Plus: Brian Pillman, Sting, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, Reddick Youth-Flash Funk.

March 1998: Hart Transplant! The Truth Behind Bret's Defection To WCW. Plus: Steve McMichael, Bam Bam Bigelow, Steve Austin, Disco Inferno.

April 1998 (Special Issue): The 1998 Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament. Also: Scott Hall, Marlena, Chris Benoit, Gunn & James, Sabu-Sandman.

May 1998: Is The WWF Screwing Another Hart? Plus: Steve Austin, Dallas Page, Booker T, Larry Zbyszko, Al Snow.

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Andre vs. Kamala: HAS ANDRE BECOME WRESTLING'S HIGHEST-

Andre flings a frightened-looking Kamala across the ring.



INSIDE WRESTLING CLASSIC

It was one of 1983's most brutal feuds. Andre and Kamala both could be very vicious when they so desired. If you never got to see either of these men, you'll want to check out this "Inside Wrestling Classic" from 15 years ago

THE FIRST MATCH was entitled, simply enough, "Battle of the Giants": Andre the Giant vs. Kamala, the Ugandan giant. The Sam Houston Coliseum in Houston was sold out long before the two would meet in the ring. The crowd lived up to the expectations of the promoters, and the match lived up to the expectations of the crowd.

At the peak of the furious battle, Andre covered his opponent for an attempted pin. Kamala's manager, Skandor Akbar, and Friday, the mysterious masked assistant, ran into the ring, however, and assaulted Andre violently. Andre's victory, though tainted by the disqualification, at least demonstrated to the fans who the better wrestler was.

So why had Andre the Giant demanded a return match with a man who, in the eyes of the wrestling community, he had defeated definitively? Andre is, without a doubt, the busiest of the sport's participants. He travels around the world a number of times in one year. His services are in demand in every continent of the globe. It wouldn't seem that a man with Andre's schedule would have the time to backtrack over opponents he's already beaten.

"He has been paid to come back," explained Akbar. "They are afraid of Kamala, and they have paid Andre to come back to try to achieve what he couldn't the last time he wrestled Kamala. They

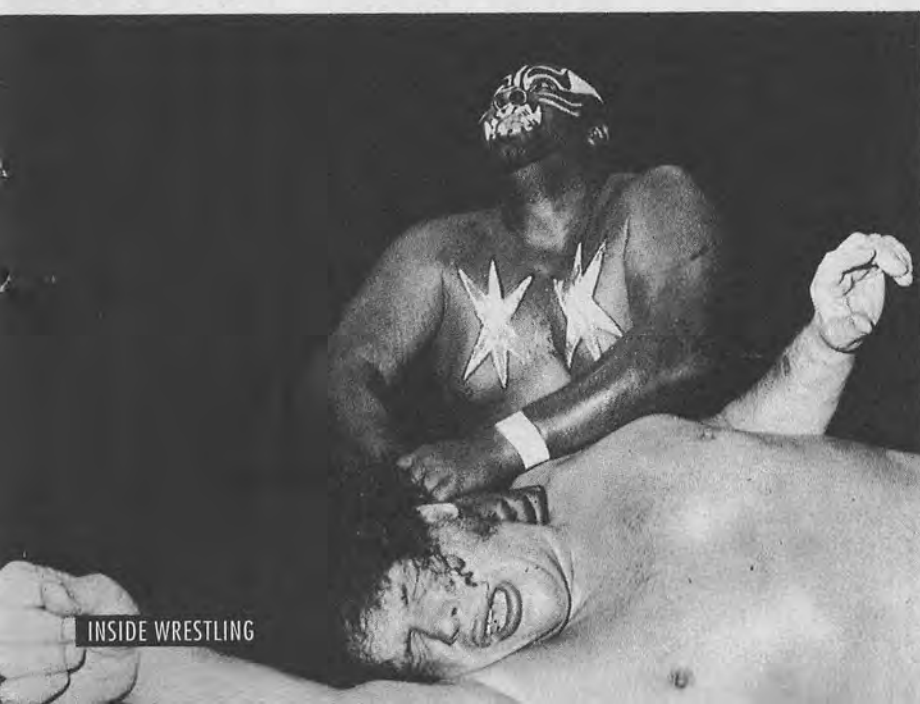
There seemed to be no reason for this return match. In their previous encounter, Andre the Giant and the Great Kamala brawled ferociously until Kamala's cornermen rushed into the ring to save their struggling wrestler. Now Andre has returned to challenge Kamala once again, and Kamala's manager, Skandor Akbar, claims to know why

PAID BOUNTY HUNTER?

Photos by Alice Marie Nelson



Andre unsuccessfully tries to roll away from Kamala (below) before the Ugandan giant can apply a nervehold (bottom).



want Kamala out of wrestling."

Who are they?

"They," Akbar claimed, "are Junkyard Dog, Mr. Wrestling II, Butch Reed, Tiger Conway, and Chavo Guerrero. These men are afraid. They are scared of what Kamala will do to them. My Ugandan giant could end their careers in one minute. He could take away these men's livelihoods and leave them as lifeless piles of flesh lying on the canvas.

"Kamala knows no sympathy or sentiment. He does not think in these terms. Instead, his mind is busy with thoughts of destruction,

(Continued on page 62)

ANDRE VS. KAMALA

(Continued from page 61)

GIANT
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Andre maneuvers Kamala into a corner and flattens the Ugandan's robust middle. Just why did Andre return to Texas to wrestle Kamala again?

devastation, and total demolition of anyone or anything that stands in his way. We found him in Uganda. He was a killer, a bodyguard for Idi Amin.

"The fans should be ashamed of their Giant Andre. He has become a bounty hunter. He is accepting payment to hurt someone in the ring. This is the man who the fans, the stupid fans, have cheered for years. And now, he is a paid assassin. Let them cheer him now. Let them cheer for 'Andre the Bounty Hunter.'"

Akbar's fantastic claim was, nonetheless, quite plausible. Andre the Giant might be the richest man in professional wrestling, and if he were going to be bought, for any amount of money, it would take a number of people to pay his fee.

"I have heard all kinds of stories," Junkyard Dog said. "I hear stories that I'm scared, that I'm running away, that I'm hiding from this bozo Kamala, but now they're saying that I'm paying Andre the Giant? Now that's a new

one. Akbar has to be kiddin' me, man. What should I be afraid of, the way Kamala paints his face? The half moons on his belly? They way slaps that flab and bounces around the ring? He's a cartoon, man. A comic book.

"I wrestled the man already. I have nothing to prove. I'm not scared. I'm not runnin' and I'm not payin' the Giant, either. The Dog don't pay anyone to do his work for him, and the Dog isn't scared of no one. I rassle with anyone."

"Akbar is desperate," Mr. Wrestling II said. "I look at it this way. Andre was not satisfied with the disqualification victory, and he's come back to get a pinfall over him. Akbar is scared. He figures if he makes some ridiculous claim, he might throw Andre off of his game. He's playing mind games with Andre. The match is supposed to take place in the ring. I wish people like Akbar would remember that and stop embellishing the sport with all this innuendo.

"I've known Andre for a long time. He is proud of his reputation. He likes to think of himself as an example to the kids. I'm sure that what Akbar is spreading around would upset Andre. Andre has to know that the fans will not believe any of these vicious rumors. I'm not paying bounty money to Andre the Giant, and, to the best of my knowledge, there isn't anyone else who is, and I want the world to know that."

From the roar of the crowd that night, it was evident that Andre had not lost any of his appeal with the Houston fans. Walking back to the dressing room afterward, he acknowledged the applause of the sellout crowd. Andre did not have to worry about his popularity diminishing. Skandor Akbar's plan had failed. The cheers of the crowd told that story. □

AMERICA PRESENTS

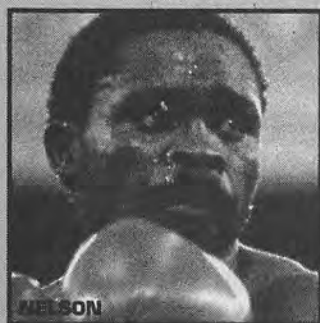
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OF CHAMPIONS

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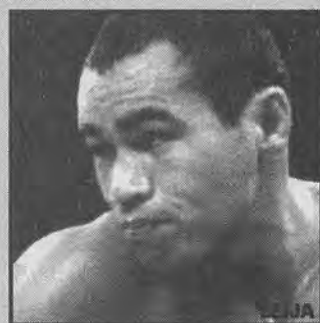
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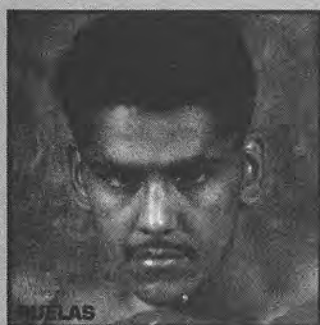
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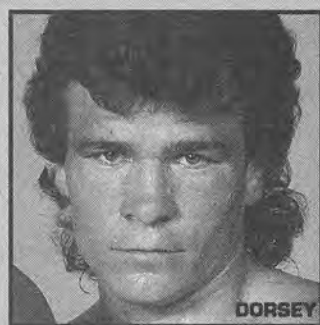
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1—STEVE AUSTIN

(1) WWF World champion

2—BILL GOLDBERG

(6) U.S. heavyweight champion

3—HOLLYWOOD HOGAN

(4) WCW World champion

4—ROCKY MAIVIA

(8) WWF Intercontinental champion

5—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

(10) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

6—STING

(2) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

7—TOSHIKI KAWADA

(-) All-Japan Triple Crown Champion

8—THE UNDERTAKER

(3) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

9—DEAN MALENKO

(-) WCW cruiserweight champion

10—TATSUMI FUJINAMI

(14) IWGP heavyweight champion

11—OWEN HART

(9) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

12—ROB VAN DAM

(12) ECW TV champion

13—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

(13) No. 6 contender: WCW World title

14—DAN SEVERN

(-) NWA heavyweight champion

15—DAVE FINLAY

(-) WCW TV champion

WCW

1—HOLLYWOOD HOGAN

(1) 275, Venice Beach, CA

2—BILL GOLDBERG

(2) 270, Tulsa, OK

3—DEAN MALENKO

(-) 216, Tampa, FL

4—STING

(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA

5—BRET HART

(11) 235, Calgary, Alberta

6—RANDY SAVAGE

(8) 237, Sarasota, FL

7—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

(7) 260, Tampa, FL

8—DAVE FINLAY

(-) 243, Belfast, Ireland

9—LEX LUGER

(4) 265, Chicago, IL

10—CHRIS JERICO

(6) 225, Vancouver, British Columbia

11—PERRY SATURN

(-) 234, Boston, MA

12—BOOKER T

(5) 250, Harlem, NY

13—EDDY GUERRERO

(-) 221, El Paso, TX

14—RAVEN

(12) 235, Short Hills, NJ

15—CHRIS BENOIT

(-) 218, Edmonton, Alberta

WWF

1—STEVE AUSTIN

(1) 252, Victoria, TX

2—ROCKY MAIVIA

(2) 272, Pearl City, HI

3—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

(5) 279, Greenwich, CT

4—THE UNDERTAKER

(3) 328, parts unknown

5—OWEN HART

(4) 227, Calgary, Alberta

6—VADER

(-) 450, Denver, CO

7—DUDE LOVE

(6) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM

8—JEFF JARRETT

(7) 230, Nashville, TN

9—DAN SEVERN

(13) 265, Detroit, MI

10—KANE

(8) 345, parts unknown

11—FAAROOQ

(9) 291, Perry, GA

12—BRADSHAW

(-) 309, Roscoe, TX

13—MARC MERO

(12) 235, Buffalo, NY

14—STEVE BLACKMAN

(15) 245, Annville, PA

15—DUSTIN RUNNELS

(-) 256, Austin, TX

ECW

1—SHANE DOUGLAS

(1) 240, Pittsburgh, PA

2—ROB VAN DAM

(2) 240, Battle Creek, MI

3—SABU

(5) 225, Bombay

4—BAM BAM BIGELOW

(3) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

5—JUSTIN CREDIBLE

(6) 225, Waterbury, CT

6—AL SNOW

(4) 232, Lima, OH

7—TOMMY DREAMER

(7) 245, Yonkers, NY

8—CHRIS CANDIDO

(10) 226, Carteret, NJ

9—THE SANDMAN

(11) 244, Philadelphia, PA

10—JERRY LYNN

(-) 214, Minneapolis, MN

11—LANCE STORM

(9) 234, Calgary, Alberta

12—BUH BUH RAY DUDLEY

(12) 325, parts unknown

13—SPIKE DUDLEY

(15) 155, parts unknown

14—MIKEY WHIPWRECK

(-) 187, New York, NY

15—CHRIS CHETTI

(-) 227, Amityville, NY

INTERNATIONAL

1—TOSHIKI KAWADA

(8) 245, Ashikaga, Japan

2—TATSUMI FUJINAMI

(2) 234, Oita, Japan

3—MITSU HARU MISAWA

(1) 228, Ashikaga, Japan

4—JUSHIN LIGER

(3) 206, Hiroshima, Japan

5—KENSUKE SASAKI

(4) 233, Tokyo, Japan

6—UNIVERSO 2000

(6) 215, parts unknown

7—KENTA KOBASHI

(7) 261, Fukuchiyama, Japan

8—FRANZ SCHUMANN

(9) 201, Graz, Austria

9—PERRO AGUAYO

(10) 215, Zacatecas, Mexico

10—ULTIMO DRAGON

(11) 175, Mexico City, Mexico

11—SHINYA HASHIMOTO

(12) 287, Gifu, Japan

12—MAUNUKEA MOSSMAN

(13) 245, Honolulu, HI

13—KIYOSHI TIMURA

(14) 191, Yokohama, Japan

14—HAYABUSA

(-) 175, Osaka, Japan

15—EMILIO CHARLES JR.

(-) 222, Mexico City, Mexico

TOP 15 TAG TEAMS

1—BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES

(1) WWF World tag team champions

2—THE GIANT & STING

(4) WCW World tag team champions

3—LOD 2000

(2) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

4—OWEN HART & ROCKY MAIVIA

(-) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

5—MASA CHONO & KEIJI MUTO

(3) IWGP tag team champions

6—BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY

(5) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

7—EIGHT-BALL & SKULL

(-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

8—TERRY FUNK & 2 COLD SCORPIO

(9) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title

9—STEVE BLACKMAN & FAAROOQ

(-) No. 5 contenders: WWF World tag title

10—CHRIS CANDIDO & LANCE STORM

(8) ECW tag team champions

11—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

(7) NWA tag team champions

12—THE HEADBANGERS

(6) No. 6 contenders: WWF World tag title

13—ROB CONWAY & NICK DINSMORE

(12) MCW tag team champions

14—PUBLIC ENEMY

(14) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

15—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

(13) No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended May 21, 1998

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: TOSHIKI KAWADA
(May 1, 1998; from Mitsuharu Misawa; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TOSHIKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUE
(January 25, 1998; from Johnny Ace & Kenta Kobashi; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: TOSHIKI KAWADA
(May 1, 1998; from Mitsuharu Misawa; Tokyo, Japan)

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHAINZ
(May 9, 1997; beat E.Z. Ryder; Elkin, NC)

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT
CHAMPION: PHANTOM I
(April 11, 1998; from Gemini; Elkin, NC)

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
RICK DEEZEL & DANIEL MAYS
(May 9, 1998; from Generation X; Elkin, NC)

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION U.S. CHAMPION: BRIAN DANZIG
(March 28, 1998; from Steve Niles; Bassett, VA)

ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHANE DOUGLAS
(November 30, 1997; from Bam Bam Bigelow; Monaca, PA)

ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS CANDIDO & LANCE STORM
(December 6, 1997; from Doug Furnas & Phil Lafon; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: ROB VAN DAM
(April 4, 1998; from Bam Bam Bigelow; Buffalo, NY)

GREAT AMERICAN WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TERMINATOR REX
(January 17, 1998; beat Chris Cannon; Red Oak, NC)

INT'L PRO WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KING KONG BUNDY
(December 5, 1997; from Brick Bronsky; Jim Thorpe, PA)

IWGP HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(April 4, 1998; from Kensuke Sasaki; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MASA CHONO & KEIJI MUTO
(October 19, 1997; from Kensuke Sasaki & Kazuo Yamazaki; Kobe, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER
(February 7, 1998; from Shinjiro Otani; Sapporo, Japan)

MUSIC CITY WRESTLING NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: THE COLORADO KID
(April 4, 1998; won battle royal; Nashville, TN)

MUSIC CITY WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROB CONWAY & NICK DINSMORE
(April 4, 1998; won four-team match; Nashville, TN)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN SEVERN
(February 24, 1995; from Chris Candido; Erlanger, KY)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DEVON STORM
(February 14, 1998; beat Reckless Youth in tournament final; Mount Holly, NJ)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
(March 30, 1998; from The Headbangers; Albany, NY)

NWA NEW ENGLAND CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: TRE
(May 9, 1998; from Millennium; Somerville, MA)

NWA NEW ENGLAND HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERICH SBRACCIA
(January 24, 1998; beat Vic Steamboat in tournament final; Ridgefield, CT)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOSHIKI KAWADA
(May 1, 1998; from Mitsuharu Misawa; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
MAUNUKEA MOSSMAN
(August 22, 1997; from Yoshinari Ogawa; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
TOSHIKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUE
(January 25, 1998; from Johnny Ace & Kenta Kobashi; Yokohama, Japan)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION:
RECKLESS YOUTH
(November 21, 1997; from Mike Quackenbush; Reading, PA)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
TIGER KHAN
(November 21, 1997; from Cheetah Master; Reading, PA)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
INFERNO KID & MIKE QUACKENBUSH
(May 15, 1998; from Blue Thunder & J.R. Ryder; Reading, PA)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: GEORGE SOUTH
(May 9, 1998; from Black Angel; Jefferson, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: FLAMING YOUTH
(April 25, 1998; from Strutter; Gaffney, SC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BREEZE & ITALIAN STALLION
(May 9, 1998; from Black Diamond & Man of Thunder; Jefferson, NC)

WCW CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: DEAN MALENKO
(May 17, 1998; from Chris Jericho; Worcester, MA)

WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: DAVE FINLAY
(May 4, 1998; from Booker T; Indianapolis, IN)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: BILL GOLDBERG
(April 20, 1998; from Raven; Colorado Springs, CO)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: HOLLYWOOD HOGAN
(April 20, 1998; from Randy Savage; Colorado Springs, CO)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE GIANT & STING
(May 17, 1998; from Scott Hall & Kevin Nash; Worcester, MA)

WWF EUROPEAN CHAMPION: HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY
(March 16, 1998; from Owen Hart; Phoenix, AZ)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: ROCKY MAIVIA
(December 8, 1997; by forfeit from Steve Austin; Portland, ME)

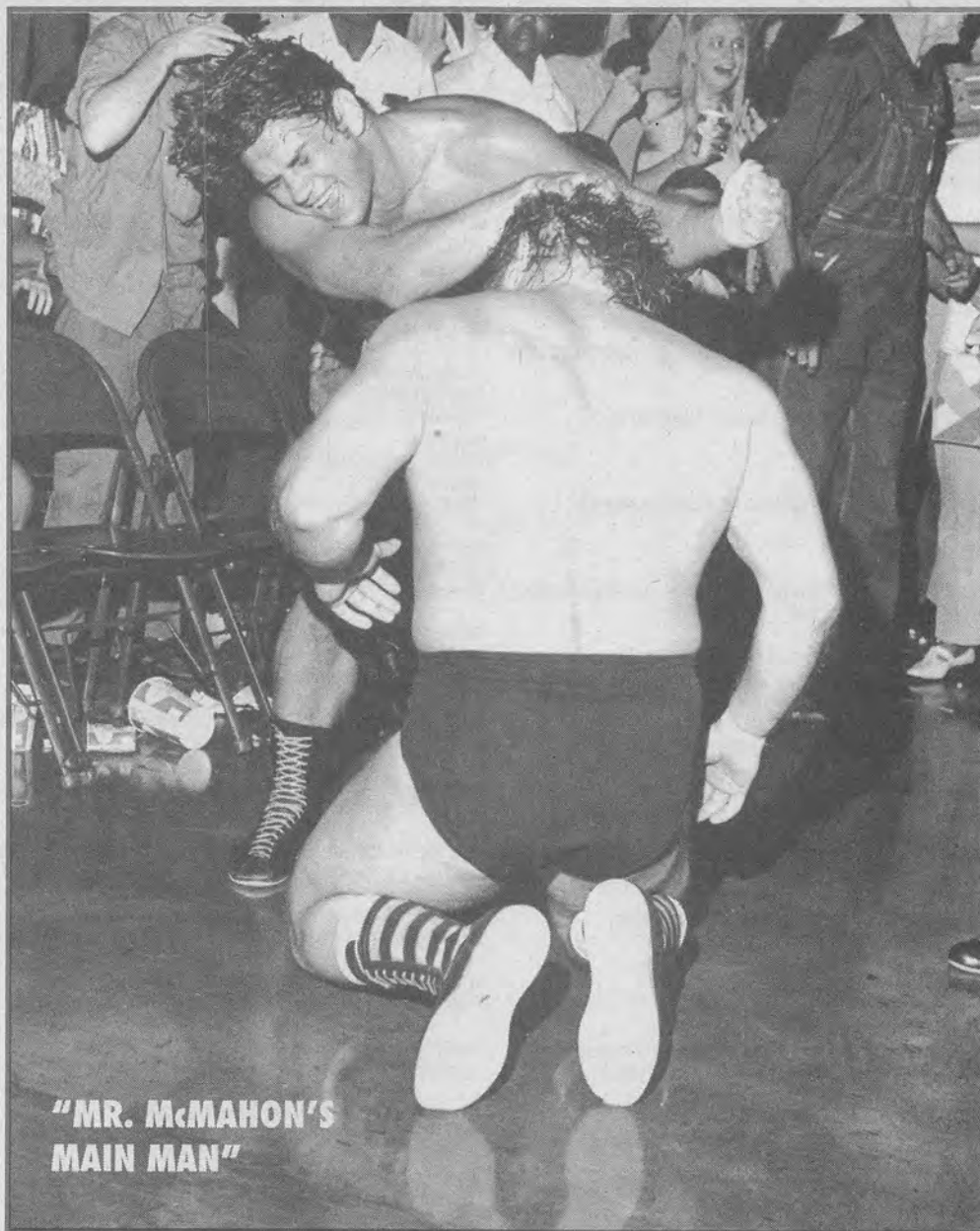
WWF LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TAKA MICHINOKU
(December 7, 1997; beat Brian Christopher in tournament final; Springfield, MA)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN
(March 29, 1998; from Shawn Michaels; Boston, MA)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES
(March 30, 1998; beat Cactus Jack & Terry Funk; Albany, NY)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Month In Wrestling History

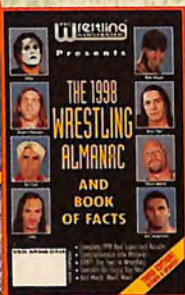


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Decades before he became a lackey to WWF owner Vince McMahon, Jerry Brisco was both an accomplished amateur and an accomplished professional wrestler. He seems to be holding his own here against Ole Anderson, one of the better brawlers of his time. Though Jerry never matched the singles success of his brother Jack, who held the NWA World title twice from 1973 to 1975, he had a very solid career. Jerry and Jack won the NWA World tag team title three times together in the 1980s.

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